THE TIMES

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East-West links threatened as Shevardnadze quits over 'dictatorship'

Soviet Union faces chaos

Gorbachev angry at resignation of his closest ally

By Bruce Clark in Moscow and Our Foreign Staff

WORLD leaders were stunned yesterday by the resignation of the Soviet foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze and fearful that his departure could throw into doubt the whole process of East-West co-operation.

Mr Shevardnadze's declaration that the Soviet Union was heading for dictatorship underlined growing fears that President Gorbachev's reform programme was doomed and that the alternative was chaos or repression.

American leaders were particularly worried that Mr Gorbachev's precarious position would be further undermined, leaving him more vulnerable to hardline conservatives demanding draconian measures to retore order to his troubled country.

They also fear that Moscow's hitherto robust support in the Gulf could be weakened. Mr Shevardnadze said in his resignation speech to the Soviet parliament that criticism of his stance on the confrontation with Iraq had been the last straw.

His announcement came without warning and surprised even Mr Gorbachev, who denounced his decision to go at such a critical time. In an emotional speech, the foreign minister said: "Dictatorship is coming. No one knows what kind of dictatorship it will be, what kind of dictator will come and what order things will take.

"I am resigning. May it be my personal contributon, or if you like, my protest against a dictatorship. I have always supported, and will support until my last days, the ideas of perestroika, of renewal, of democratisation. We have accomplished great deeds on the international arena. But I believe that to resign is my duty as a man, as a citizen, as a communist. I cannot reconcile myself to what is happening in our country and the trials awaiting our people."

Mr Gorbachev, who on Wednesday said that he might introduce presidential rule in troubled areas, angrily condemned his long-time friend for deserting him. "Now, perhaps, is the most difficult time and to leave at this time is unforgiveable. This must be denounced," he told delegates at the Congress of Peoples' Deputies. "There is no dictatorship here." The Soviet leader also revealed his personal dismay, saying: "For me, Shevardnadze's announcement came as a surprise. That, more than anything else, hurt me." He had planned to make him his vice-president.

The foreign minister's resignation has to be formally accepted by the Supreme Soviet, whose foreign relations commission yesterday met in emergency session and recommended rejection of the resignation. Mr Shevardnadze made clear, however, that his decision was final, although he agreed to remain until a replacement was appointed.

The congress, meeting to consider constitutional amendments to strengthen presidential power, yesterday overwhelmingly reaffirmed "the immutability of the Soviet foreign political course". Tass speculated that Mr Shevardnadze could be succeeded by Yevgeny Primakov, who was recently sent to Iraq in an attempt to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf confrontation.

Mr Shevardnadze's handling of the Middle East issue had brought to a head conservative criticism of his foreign policies. Earlier this month, the hardline "Soyuz" parliamentary faction demanded that he be rebuked for supporting the UN resolution on the use of force. Yesterday, one of the faction's leaders, Viktor Alksnis, said that the resignation was "a step in the right direction. It should have been done long ago."

Since his appointment in 1985, Mr Shevardnadze has played a pivotal role in the ending of the cold war, the reaching of arms agreements and the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. His departure has alarmed Western leaders who fear that it will have disastrous ramifications.

James Baker, the American Secretary of State, said: "The short-term question the Soviet leadership faces now is not so much whether reform can succeed, but whether anarchy and chaos can be prevented." But he added that there was no reason to doubt Mr Gorbachev's pledge that Soviet foreign policy would not change. Marlin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, said that President Bush expected the Moscow summit to go ahead in February.

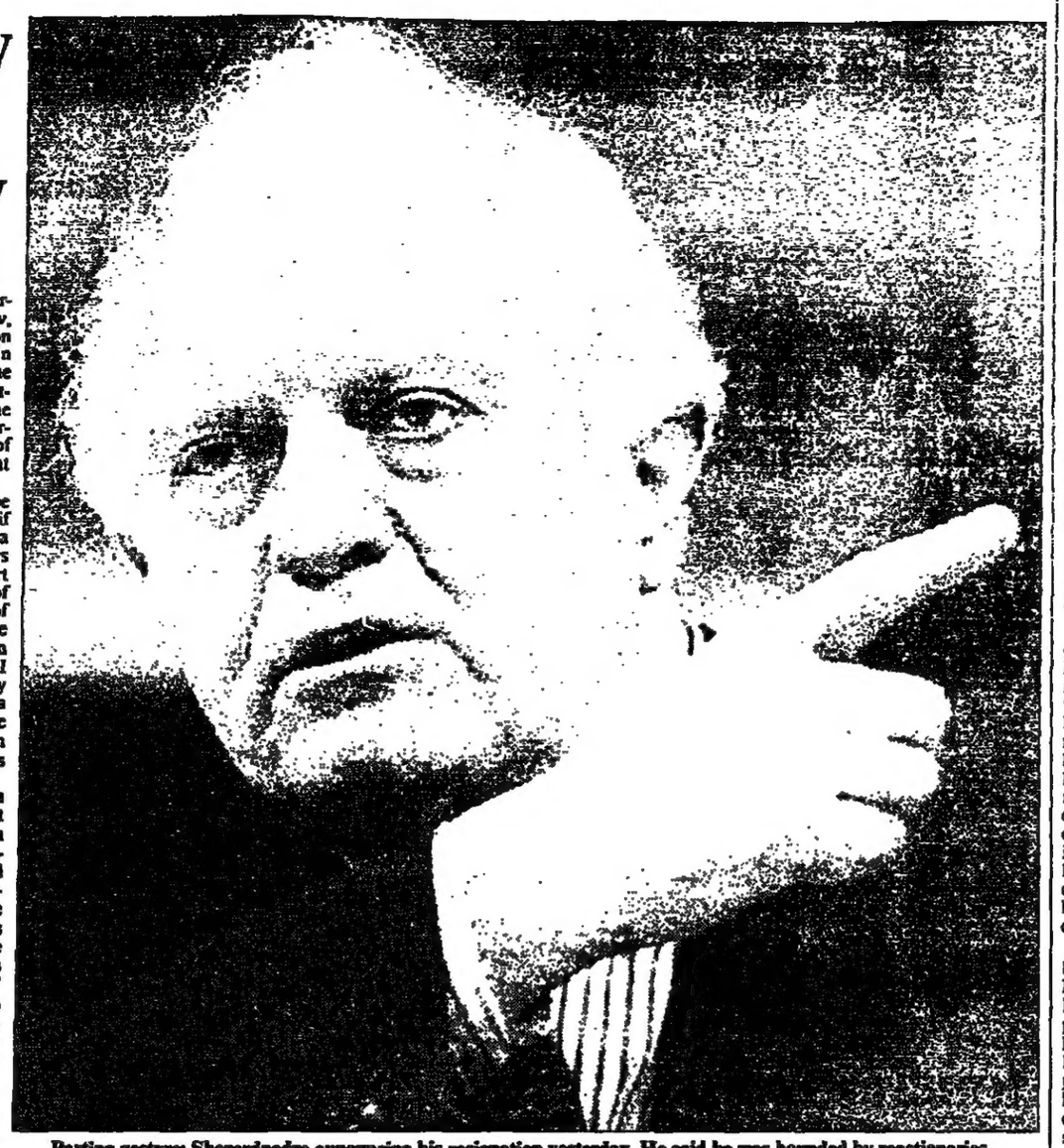
Reading from a prepared statement, Mr Fitzwater added: "Foreign minister Shevardnadze's announcement is indicative of the seriousness of the situation in the Soviet Union. Minister Shevardnadze has been an important figure in the positive evolution of US-Soviet relations. We have every reason to want to see that process continue."

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, expressed sadness at Mr Shevardnadze's decision, adding: "I think we all have to feel some concern at the reasons he gave. We hope that the policies of reform which he supported will continue."

The German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, said he regretted the resignation.

The Nato secretary-general, Manfred Woerner, also voiced concern, saying: "I hope that the development towards full democracy, freedom and human rights will not be put at risk."

Face of humanity, page 9
Grave warning, page 12
Leading article, page 13



Parting gesture: Shevardnadze announcing his resignation yesterday. He said he was hounded by reactionaries

INSIDE

Farewells in the Rhondda

More than 100 years after coal was first cut in the Rhondda, the last lump from the last pit was hewn yesterday, leaving older miners with memories of black pats in their sandwiches, rats in the ponies' stables, and the secret language of the pit props warning of water ahead ..... Page 22

Passengers sue

Disgruntled commuters issued a writ against British Railways and InterCity's Anglia region, accusing them of misrepresentation and negligence for failing to give a reasonable service on a line where 60 per cent of services often run late ..... Page 4

Father's hope

Eric Smith (above), whose daughter Karyn was jailed in Thailand for 25 years yesterday, hopes British police will try to trace the men that he says tricked her into trying to smuggle heroin ..... Page 3

Apartheid move

Two of the three remaining pillars of apartheid in South Africa are likely to be repealed early next year, paving the way for negotiations on a new constitution ..... Page 10

Nadir released

Asil Nadir, chairman of Polly Peck, produced the £2 million in cash he needed for bail and was freed after three nights in Wormwood Scrubs. He faces 18 charges of theft and false accounting involving £25 million ..... Page 23

England toiling

Dean Jones, the Australian batsman, scored his second century in five days against England's ailing cricketers as Victoria amassed 336 for four on the first day of their match ..... Page 36

INDEX

Diplomatic victory for US on Israel

From James Bone in New York

THE United States yesterday preserved the fragile unity forged in the United Nations Security Council since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait by voting to censure Israel and supporting a symbolically important statement on a future Middle East peace conference. The unanimous vote marked the third time since the killing of about 20 Palestinians on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem on October 8 that America has supported a security council resolution critical of Israel.

By maintaining the unity of the council, preserving the coalition against Iraq, the security council's decision amounted to a diplomatic victory for Washington. During a month of often acrimonious negotiations, the American ambassador, Thomas Pickering, succeeded in weakening the text so much that the United States did not have to offend its Arab allies against Iraq by exercising its veto to protect Israel.

The final resolution contained few of the key demands originally made by its four initial sponsors — Colombia, Cuba, Malaysia and Yemen. A provision creating a UN ombudsman to protect the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories was abandoned in favour of a simple request that the UN secretary general should "monitor and observe the situation".

An earlier call for a special conference of signatories of the Fourth Geneva Convention to force Israel to comply with its obligations towards civilians under occupation was substituted with a vaguely worded paragraph asking merely for the idea to be developed further. And a controversial reference to a future Middle East peace conference was removed from the resolution into an accompanying statement in the name of all security council members.

The members "agree that an international conference, at an appropriate time, properly structured, should facilitate efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement and lasting peace in the Arab-Israeli conflict", the statement said, but members thought that there was not unanimity as to when would be the appropriate time for such a conference.

US struggle, page 7
Letters, page 13

EC agreement on lower North Sea fish catches

From Michael Hornsby in Brussels

EC FISHERIES ministers agreed yesterday after 30 hours of negotiation to reduce catch levels next year to protect dwindling stocks, but postponed a decision on increasing net mesh size which, scientists say, is needed to prevent the slaughter of young fish.

The European fisheries commissioner, Sênor Manuel Marin, said the ministers had agreed to reconsider the mesh size issue and to take a decision by next July. "Ministers must accept that they are going to have to adopt measures that will be extremely unpopular," he said. The commission had reluctantly agreed to a postponement to avoid a complete breakdown in the negotiations.

Ministers also agreed to compel certain categories of vessels fishing for cod and haddock in the North Sea and west of Scotland to stay in port for eight consecutive days each month from February 1 to December 31 of next year. Brussels had wanted all

Continued on page 22, col 6

Recession 'worse than Treasury forecast'

By Richard Ford

THE recession is likely to be deeper and longer than the Teasury has forecast, an all-party committee of MPs said yesterday.

In the chancellor's autumn economic statement the Treasury forecast that the recession would end with a sharp recovery in the second half of 1991. However, the Treasury and Civil Service committee described this as likely to be over optimistic. "Taking all factors into account, the recession is likely to be deeper and longer than the Treasury forecast," the committee said. It added, however, that the Treasury's forecast of 5.5 per cent inflation towards the end of next year might be more reliable.

Entry into the exchange-rate mechanism has, through a weaker pound, reduced the ability to increase exports, the committee said, and it urged the government to be prepared to act to stimulate economic activity if the recession proves to be deep and long.

Lending increase, page 23

BBC discounts 'rigged' Man of Year vote

By Jamie Dettmer

STAFF at the BBC Radio 4 current affairs programme *Today* were in a quandary yesterday after counting listeners' votes for the annual Man of the Year award. The man who received far and away the most votes is well-known to Hindu families but is unlikely to stir a flicker of recognition from the majority of the programme's seven million regular listeners.

Only the decision to discount all the votes for Lal Krishan Advani, leader of the extreme Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, has prevented the kitchens of Britain ringing with cries of "who's he?"

The award, to be announced on the programme next Friday, is to go to a politician who is much better known to British households but who received half as many votes as the BJP leader.

Although *Today* staff are braced for complaints over their decision to discount the votes for Mr Advani, senior management took the decision after they began to suspect that the votes had been orchestrated. A significant number had been enclosed in similar envelopes and posted in Bradford and Birmingham. Some letters were signed by groups of people rather than individuals, breaking what the BBC sees as the spirit of the award.

Today staff also became familiar with identical, typed statements proposing Mr Advani. They read: "Dear Sir or Madam, I hereby propose Lal Krishan Advani for propagating the Hindu cause in 1990 as BBC Radio 4 Man of the Year."

Another orchestrated campaign, albeit much smaller, has also been spotted in this year's Woman of the Year award. An unusual number of votes were sent to propose a woman who runs a charity in Chippenham.

Mr Advani's influence this year on Indian politics has been significant. He and his party have been at the forefront of a revival of Hindu fundamentalism which has inflamed communal feelings. The BJP has supported the construction of a Hindu temple at Ayodhya at the spot where a Muslim mosque stands. A few weeks ago, the Ayodhya issue led the BJP to leave the coalition government, causing it to collapse.

Supporters of Mr Advani may feel a little aggrieved about *Today's* decision. It was an open secret that Margaret Thatcher won the programme's Woman of the Year award seven times as a result of letter-writing campaigns run by zealous Young Conservatives, while Enoch Powell won a similar award after another concerted campaign.

Advani: letters in his favour 'orchestrated'

Thatcher honours loyal aides

By Philip Webster and Sheila Gunn

BERNARD Ingham and Charles Powell, two loyal aides who became the best-known civil servants in the country, are knighted in Margaret Thatcher's resignation honours list today.

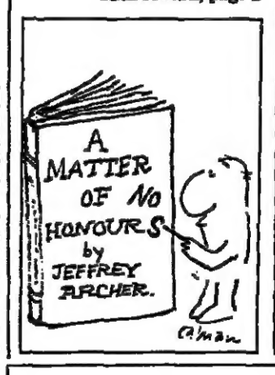
Seven life peers head a list of 43 key advisers, benefactors, friends and staff whose services are recognised by the former prime minister. The new peers include Brian Griffiths, who ran Mrs Thatcher's policy unit at Downing Street for five years. Other close associates recognised include Tim Bell, a key publicity adviser during general election campaigns, who is knighted. Jane Gow, widow of Mrs Thatcher's close political and personal friend Ian Gow, murdered by the IRA in July, becomes a dame commander.

Mr Ingham, whose bluntly conveyed but unattributable briefings as chief press secretary became a hallmark of the Thatcher years, went public to declare that he was naturally delighted to have been honoured. Mr Powell, her private secretary and senior adviser on foreign affairs, emerged from the traditional cloak of obscurity surrounding his post during the Westland affair when there were questions over his role in the leak of a letter criticising the conduct of Michael Heseltine.

The former prime minister has followed the practice of her predecessors in bestowing honours on people who supported her at all levels during her eleven-and-a-half years at Downing Street. They include prominent industrialists who have been generous supporters of the Conservative party, senior party and civil service staff, her personal physician, editors of sympathetic newspapers, messengers in her office, her cleaner and her

Continued on page 22, col 5

Rich reward, page 2



CHRISTMAS IN THE TIMES

Batteries not included?

When children play with the box rather than the expensive item inside it isn't always because that is how children are. Often the (electric) contents lack either any sort of battery, or the right sort. A guide to farming batteries

TODAY, PAGE 16

A likely story

Tomorrow, Rumpole of the Bailey tangles with a soothsayer in a story written for *The Times* by John Mortimer. Plus the best of eating out, choosing the right wine, ideas for the leftovers and the holiday television

SATURDAY REVIEW

My true love, in real terms

French hens and partridges in pear trees come a lot dearer now than when *The Times* first went a-shopping in 1973. As for turtle doves . . . sorry squire, that's more than my job is worth

CHRISTMAS EVE

The Jumbo solution

Spend at least part of Christmas Eve far from the shopping crowd with *The Times* Jumbo crossword, with a £50 prize for the first five correct solutions (and another to come on New Year's day)

Join us for Boxing Day

The Times is the only quality newspaper publishing on Boxing Day and demand will be enormous. Be sure to order a copy from your newsagent today

Thatcher resignation honours

Members of the kitchen cabinet reap rich rewards

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET Thatcher rewards faithful cooks and cleaners in her resignation honours list published today, but it is her kitchen cabinet that emerges from the heat of the 1980s with the most glittering of prizes.

Pride of place goes to Professor Brian Griffiths, who proved a discreet but highly influential head of the prime minister's policy unit from 1985 to her fall from power last month . He is made a life peer.

Bernard Ingham, Mrs Thatcher's megaphone press secretary, receives a knighthood, as does Charles Powell, the one-time Foreign Office man, who was her private secretary from 1984 and a frequent caller at Chequers with his ebullient Italian wife Carla.

Tim Bell, aged 49, the former Saatchi and Saatchi linkman with Mrs Thatcher, another intimate of the Chequers dining table and the nightcap in the pokey Downing Street flat, is one more insider to be rewarded with a knighthood. Andrew Turnbull, aged 45, a career civil servant and most recently her principal private secretary, becomes a Commander of the Order of the Bath (CB).

Professor Griffiths, the son of a National Coal Board chauffeur, grew up in an industrial village outside Swansea, escaped via the traditional grammar school ladder to the London School of Economics and voted Labour until 1970 and the rise of monetarism.

Mr Ingham, aged 58, Whitehall's best known man with no name, was another grammar school boy who reached the top. From being a reporter on the *Hebden Bridge Times* in the early 1950s he rose to be "government sources". Mrs Thatcher's unattributable but unmistakable hotline to breakfast tables from Barnsley to Baghdad.

By comparison, Mr Powell's steps to the summit were short and swift. The son of an air vice-marshal, he was educated at King's School, Canterbury and won a first in modern history from New College, Oxford. His first diplomatic posting was to Helsinki. His talent for the unexpected was confirmed when he was private secretary to the Washington ambassador and learned to bypass official Foreign Office channels in linking the Nixon White House to the Heath government.

An urbane and discreet figure, Mr Powell, aged 49, nevertheless had his moments in the limelight. He "accepted" the ploy of leaking the solicitor-general's letter criticising Michael Heseltine during the Westland affair. An ambassadorship now beckons after a few more months in Downing Street and perhaps a war in the Gulf. Professor Griffiths, aged 48, will also not be short of offers after five years at the heart of government. An early exponent of monetarism, he buttressed Mrs Thatcher's hostility to the European exchange-rate mechanism and fed her doubts about Nigel Lawson's policy of fine-tuning sterling to shadow the Mark.

Professor Griffiths, like many on the new right, believed that politics and policies could not be divorced from morality.

Mr Ingham, who has retired from the civil service, yesterday threw off his tattered cloak of anonymity and said he was delighted with his knighthood. "Obviously, I am very grateful to Mrs Thatcher for recognising my work in this way," he said.

His critics, no doubt, and there are quite a few within the Conservative party, will see it differently. They will recall the cabinet ministers who fell foul of his tongue at his unattributable lobby briefings.

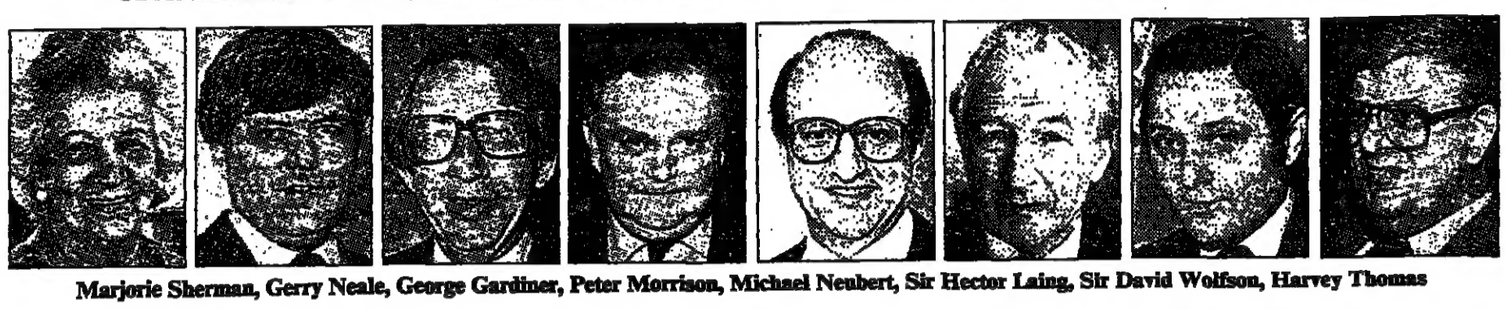
Mrs Thatcher also distributed consolation prizes to the vanquished generals of her leadership campaign. Peter Morrison, her former parliamentary private secretary, is given a knighthood, as is Gerry Neale, the Conservative MP for North Cornwall. George Gardiner, chairman of the backbench 92 group of Thatcher loyalists, is similarly rewarded. Michael Neubert, another veteran of her last battle, also becomes a knight.

Mrs Thatcher's list honours the widow of Ian Gow, killed by a Provisional IRA car bomb five months ago, by making her a Dame. Jane Gow was officially given the honour "for political and public services" but at Westminster it was seen as recognition of the courage she showed at the time of her husband's death outside their home in Hankham, east Sussex.

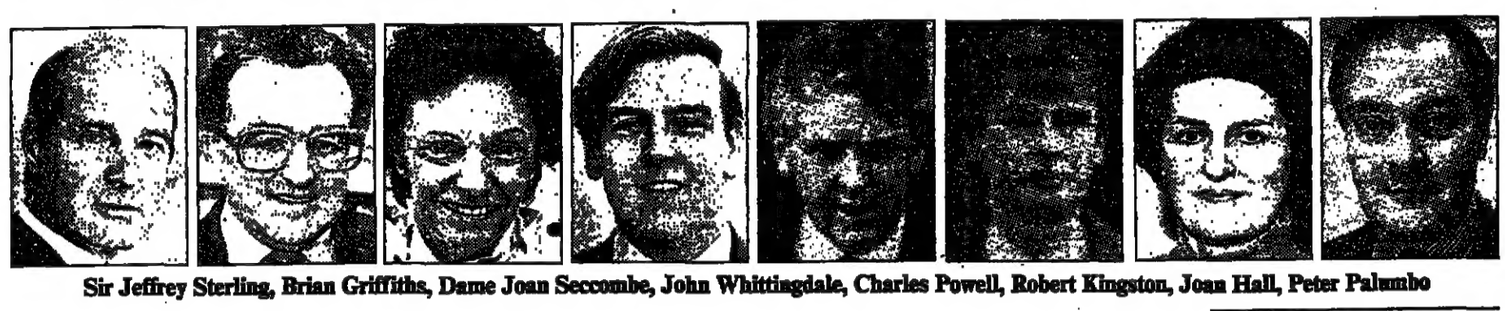
PETER TRIEVNOR

Among the honoured: (from left) Alfred Heath, Edwina Booker, Anthony Yandle, Peter D'Emanuele, Sherry Warner, Susan Goodchild, Dot King, Janice Richards, Andrew Turnbull, principal private secretary, and John Catford, secretary for appointments

On the honours list: Jane Gow, John Henderson, Olga Polizzi, Nick Lloyd, Tim Bell, Sir Gordon White, Sue Tinson, Bernard Ingham



Marjorie Sherman, Gerry Neale, George Gardiner, Peter Morrison, Michael Neubert, Sir Hector Laing, Sir David Wolfson, Harvey Thomas



Sir Jeffrey Sterling, Brian Griffiths, Dame Joan Seccombe, John Whittingdale, Charles Powell, Robert Kingston, Joan Hall, Peter Palumbo

Personal touch to office honours

By RICHARD FORD POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LIKE previous prime ministers, Margaret Thatcher has followed a long tradition by recommending honours for the office and household staff at 10 Downing Street and Chequers.

The former prime minister has also added some typically personal touches to the list by recommending awards to women closely involved in refurbishing the official rooms at 10 Downing Street and in providing her with her sartorial elegance.

Sergeant Robert Kingston, who as Mrs Thatcher's personal detective, was probably the man who appeared most often in photographs with the former prime minister, becomes an MBE. Mrs Thatcher has followed the tradition of Harold Wilson and James Callaghan by recommending an honour for her personal physician, Dr John Henderson, who is made a CBE. A similar honour goes to Mrs Olga Polizzi, the daughter of Lord Forte and a Conservative member of Westminster city council. She is managing director of building and design for Trusthouse Forte and was in the team responsible for the redecorating of the state rooms and drawing room at No 10.

Margaret King, the woman who helped develop the distinctive Thatcher style, becomes an MBE. Mrs King's role as a fashion adviser to Mrs Thatcher and designer of most of her day and all her evening wear began in the spring of 1987 when the former prime minister went to Aquascutum, the men's and women's outfitters in London, for a warm coat to wear on her first visit to the Soviet Union.

Mrs King said yesterday: "It has been a great honour to put her outfits together. Her clothes are basically a British look, concentrating on classic style that she wanted the world to know was the British look."

On Mrs Thatcher's recommendation, a number of workers at 10 Downing Street become MBEs as does Amanda Ponsonby, who was formerly her personal assistant and has helped her in the difficult days of transition from being prime minister to backbench MP.

Also made MBEs are Jean Dibblin, senior personal secretary in the prime minister's office, Janice Richards, head of the secretarial service at No 10 who are widely known in Whitehall, and Sherry Warner, the senior cook who catered for small lunches and breakfasts.

Dorothy Haynes, the housekeeper-curator at Chequers, becomes an MBE while a British Empire Medal goes to Sergeantgt Theresa Duda, the assistant house manager at the prime minister's official country home.

There was also an honour for Ted Heath, not the former prime minister, but the custody guard supervisor at 10 Downing Street. Mr Alfred Heath, known as Ted, also gains a MBE. He has been at Downing Street since 1973 when Edward Heath was prime minister.

New peers, page 6

Peerages for three pillars of industry

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

PEERAGES have gone to three leading industrialists who have been long-term close advisers and prominent Conservative party supporters but who have also taken concrete steps to help implement government initiatives.

Sir Hector Laing, who retired from the chairmanship of United Biscuits in May after transforming it from a small family business over 45 years, has long been an apostle of removing government interference in free markets, encouraging personal initiative and curbing trade union power. He was a trusted friend and informal adviser to Mrs Thatcher.

Sir Hector is noted for leading his company in good industrial relations and retaining its family atmosphere. Sir Hector is a champion of long-term thinking and investment and has been a noted scourge of City takeover bids selling Britain short.

Sir Jeffrey Sterling built his own commercial property empire and is now chairman of P&O, the transport and construction group. He was the unpaid official industrial adviser at the trade and industry department for most of the Thatcher period.

He is a close friend of Lord Young and was appointed by Patrick Jenkin to succeed him as industrial adviser in 1982. He stepped down in August, having been an architect of the change in policy to use privatisation to enourage mass share ownership.

Sir Gordon White is the equal in Hanson plc of Lord Hanson, who was previously ennobled at Mrs Thatcher's behest. Hanson has been particularly influential in promoting free financial markets and has come to the prime minister's aid at difficult moments, notably by buying a stake in Westland and using it to support Cabinet policy.

Geoffrey Leigh, chairman of Allied London Properties, who is knighted, is a substantial personal financial backer of the Conservative party as well as an energetic fund-raiser for the party and for several charities, including the Prince's Youth Business Trust.

BSB users given two years' grace

The merged British Sky Broadcasting will be allowed to continue transmitting on BSB's Marco Polo satellite until the end of 1992, the IBA and its successor, the Independent Television Commission, have ruled (Melinda Wittstock writes).

Although the merger constituted a "serious breach" of BSB's programme contract with the IBA, the broadcasting regulator has opted not to revoke the contract as early as expected to allow BSB "squarial" owners the option in 1992 of subscribing to new channels on Marco Polo.

The ITC is also to award BSkyB a non-domestic satellite television programme licence from January 1. The company will, however, be required to appoint two independent directors with powers of veto to ensure the contractual obligations of the merged group are honoured. The directors, one nominated by News International and the other by BSB shareholders, are to be appointed by March subject to ITC approval.

HTV jobs axed

HTV announced yesterday that 200 jobs would be cut from the beginning of next year. The West Country and Welsh television station said the redundancies were necessary because of the rising costs of the government levy on independent television companies and falling advertising revenue. Patrick Dromgoole, the chief executive, said: "I bitterly regret having to make this announcement, particularly at this time of the year."

Health reforms

NHS reforms are to be piloted in six health authorities as part of £3 million project, the government announced yesterday. Duncan Nichol, NHS chief executive, said that although some districts would implement changes faster than others, reforms would take place throughout the service from April. The areas are Cornwall and Isles of Scilly; Halton, St Helens, Knowsley and Warrington; Newcastle; Portsmouth; Wandsworth; and West Dorset.

Libel jury out

The jury in the libel action brought by Sonia Sutcliffe, the wife of Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, against the *News of the World* had still to reach a verdict after an afternoon's deliberations when the court adjourned last night. *Mr Justice Drake, in his* summing up, earlier told the jury that it had to choose whether they preferred to believe Mrs Sutcliffe's evidence or that of Barbara Jones, the journalist who accompanied her on a holiday to Greece.

CORRECTION

In the table showing results in the German election (December 4) the number of seats won by the Christian Democratic Union should have been 268, making the coalition total 398.

State sector holds own at Oxford

By JOHN O'LEARY HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

STATE school pupils are holding their own with students from the independent sector in Oxford university examinations, an unpublished study shows. Admissions tutors believe, however, that there is now little scope for increasing the number of state school pupils at the university.

An analysis of undergraduate results from 1984-5 showed that pupils from independent schools were only slightly ahead of those from state schools in terms of first-class degrees. Grammar schools produced the most first- and second-class honours and the least failures.

Brian Smith, who chairs Oxford's admissions committee, interprets the results as evidence that the university's recruitment policies are about right. Writing in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today, he adds that the state intake has reached a plateau and, in spite of further efforts to encourage state school applications, the ratio is unlikely to change significantly.

State entrants formed a majority for the first time in 1980 and have made up roughly half the intake ever since. Oxford university said that it was not complacent about the figures. "They are a matter of continuing concern," a spokeswoman said.

The study showed that 14.1 per cent of independent school pupils achieved first-class degrees compared with 13.7 per cent from grammar schools and 13.1 per cent from comprehensives.

MP calls for an army-police link after RUC man killed

From A CORRESPONDENT IN BELFAST

BETTER co-ordination of police and army resources in Ulster was demanded yesterday by a Unionist MP after an RUC reservist, William Weathers, aged 46, was shot dead by gunmen lying in wait as he drove up the lane leading to his home outside Lurgan, Co Armagh.

His black Mini was raked by automatic fire minutes after he had signed off duty at Lurgan police station at midnight.

Constable Weathers, a full-timer in the RUC Reserves for 15 years, was the 75th victim of terrorist violence in Northern Ireland this year and the 12th police officer killed.

Seven people have been murdered close to Lurgan in the past three months, four of them wildfowlers, including two policemen, ambushed beside Lough Neagh last month.

Ken Maginnis, the Unionists' security spokesman at Westminster, said he was amazed that more security resources had not been employed in the area. "There is a need for much greater awareness of soft targets who are vulnerable," he said. "If we had seen a pattern of patrolling in that area it would have put the terrorists on unsound ground and this man's life might have been saved."

As Constable Weathers was being mourned and his wife and four children – all of whom heard the gunfire in which their father died – were being comforted by clergy, relatives and friends, the IRA mounted another unsuccessful "human bomb" attack.

Armed and masked men stopped a milk float in the border village of Newtownbutler, Co Fermanagh, at about 10am and took the driver's helper hostage. They forced the driver to take the float, loaded with a bomb, to the permanent border checkpoint at nearby Kilturk.

He was able to stop the vehicle about 20 yards short of the checkpoint and shout a warning to the soldiers manning it. Security forces each side of the border cordoned off the area and six hours later the bomb had not exploded.

In Belfast the IRA's "hoax" campaign, which paralysed traffic all over the city on Wednesday afternoon and evening, continued yesterday. The army dealt with nine alerts involving suspect vehicles and packages; all proved to be hoaxes.

Space projects shelved in funding cutbacks

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

INTERNATIONAL space and astronomy projects are in jeopardy because of the deepening crisis in British science and technology funding.

A telescope for studying galaxies, an observatory for detecting gravitational waves bombarding the Earth from exploding stars, and an installation for measuring atmospheric reactions that cause the Northern Lights are being shelved, the Science and Engineering Research Council said yesterday.

The decision to delay the £38 million telescope, a flagship collaboration between Britain, America and Canada, has been taken to cut costs. It had been planned as the largest optical telescope in the northern hemisphere, with Britain contributing £20 million.

A similar fate has been decided for the British-German project to detect gravitational waves and check Einstein's theory of relativity, which was planned for Bavaria. Also shelved is the Polar cap radar, to be built at Spitsbergen, an archipelago off Norway, and due to study the reactions of charged particles in the upper atmosphere which cause luminescent effects like the aurora borealis.

The council is facing a £40 million deficit between 1991-2 after the latest public expenditure allocation and is looking at cuts of 10 per cent from its budget of about £450 million. More than £1.5 million will be saved by delaying the telescope and the detectors.

A spokesman said that more announcements would be made in February by the council's policy group, adding that unless more funds were found Britain would also have to withdraw from two joint space projects.

هكذا من الأصل

Parents seek guilty men as drug girl is jailed for 25 years

By Neil Kelly in Bangkok and Nicholas Watt

PARENTS of Karyn Smith, who was sentenced in Thailand yesterday to 25 years' imprisonment for attempted heroin trafficking, said last night they hoped that British police would take action against the guilty men who had set up their daughter.

Eric and Marilyn Smith, from Solihull, West Midlands, said in Bangkok that the British police had information about them. They also had two handwritten postcards which were sent to Smith in prison by a Birmingham man threatening her with physical violence if she gave information to the police. Mr and Mrs Smith said they believed their daughter, aged 19, was set up by the Birmingham men to carry drugs and were still convinced she was unaware of what she was doing.

That was also the view of Smith's British lawyer, Stephen Jakobi. Smith and her travelling companion, Patricia Cahill, aged 17, from Birmingham, were arrested in July at Don Muang airport, Bangkok, as they tried to board a Singapore Airlines flight to Amsterdam with onward tickets to The Gambia. Their baggage was found to contain 26kg of high-grade heroin with an estimated street value of £4 million.

Mr Jakobi said that Miss Cahill had asked Smith to join her on a business trip to Thailand with her boy friend. He did not turn up and the two women travelled on their own and were looked after by "friendly" men in Thailand.

Judge Nori Chanthorn at the Thai criminal court said yesterday that he did not believe Smith's claim that she was unaware of the heroin in her baggage when she was arrested. He said her offence warranted life imprisonment, which in Thailand meant that, but he was reducing the sentence to 25 years because she had pleaded guilty, had no criminal record and was only 19. She had also co-operated with the police.

Smith stood bare-footed in the witness box and said nothing as her sentence was pronounced, but turned to face the courtroom and flung herself into her mother's arms. Mrs Smith broke down but her daughter appeared calm and collected. She smiled as she hugged and kissed her mother and said: "I love you. Keep strong."

Mr Smith ruled out an appeal as it might impede the appeal his daughter could make in six months to Thailand's King Bhumibol for an act of royal clemency to reduce the sentence. Witawat Purmphol, Smith's Thai lawyer, thought she had a good chance of being set free in that way after she had served three or four years in prison.

Miss Cahill is being tried separately in the juvenile court. She is accused of the same offences, but has pleaded not guilty. A verdict is expected next month.

Mr Jakobi said he had put the prosecution case against his client to British judges and leading QCs who had all confirmed her innocence. He emphasised, however, that the Thais had been "decent and generous" by stretching their justice system to speed Smith's trial.

Karyn Smith, in jail uniform, leaving court in Bangkok yesterday to start a 25-year sentence for attempting to smuggle heroin. She may appeal for royal clemency

Charitable approach to prisoners abroad

By Andrew Lycett

HUNDREDS of Britons abroad face the same lonely Christmas behind bars about to be served by Karyn Smith.

According to the Foreign Office, 1,796 Britons are held in foreign prisons. 1,177 of them on the European mainland. About half were sentenced for drugs offences but the list also includes such people as Roger Cooper, the businessman held since 1985 for alleged spying in Iran, and Ian Richter, another businessman, who was convicted of bribing officials in Iraq in February 1987.

Keith Best, director of the charity Prisoners Abroad, said that many had not been charged. "Others have been convicted by systems of justice very different from our own. Some languish in appalling, fetid conditions. These are the people who are forgotten over Christmas."

Often they are closer to home than might be expected. Next week Eve Robinson, a journalist, will spend her second Christmas imprisoned without charge in Spain. She was arrested in September last year after drugs were found at a Malaga marina where she was staying, though nothing was found on her. Her health has deteriorated and her daughter Cassandra, aged seven, has had to be repatriated to Britain.

In France, the authorities do not allow prisoners to receive parcels from abroad. So Prisoners Abroad has sent £18 money orders to allow the French Red Cross to buy extra provisions for each of 50 needy Britons spending Christmas in jail there.

The charity employs four full-time case workers to assist 435 British prisoners abroad and much of its work is done before prisoners are charged. However, resources are limited. The charity's £200,000 budget is funded partly by the Home Office and the London boroughs' grant unit, but most of the money comes from individual donations.

Terrorists continue to haunt West in spite of changes

Two years after the Pan Am bomb, **Stewart Tendler and Michael Evans** look at how the terrorist threat has altered

ON THE second anniversary of the Lockerbie bombing today the investigators from Britain, the United States and West Germany are close to completing their work. They may soon publicly say who blew up Pan Am flight 103. What they cannot give is a guarantee it will not happen again.

Any intelligence analyst's assessment of terrorist threats today would paint a mixed picture. The communist regimes of eastern Europe which bolstered terrorist groups have fallen, other countries have disavowed terrorism but the Middle East remains the cockpit of terrorist violence. The invasion of Kuwait can only intensify the risk.

The main cause for hope lies in the political changes being wrought in Czechoslovakia, former East Germany, Romania and Bulgaria where the old regimes which provided arms and training for terrorists have collapsed. The Soviet Union, once regarded as a secret sponsor of terrorism, has too many internal problems to concentrate on international subversion — even if it wished to.

In the Middle East, however, where the terrorist threat is higher than ever, the state backers remain the same, even if the political leaders have suddenly become more acceptable to the West because of their support for the anti-Iraq coalition.

Syria still supports terrorism, as does Iran. Yassir Arafat, leader of the PLO, tried to acquire respectability by offering "moderation" but his new image has been undermined by his support for President Saddam.

Western intelligence agencies are convinced it was Iran that issued the contract that led to the destruction of the Pan Am flight. Now the organisations which were prepared to do Iran's bidding, such as Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, are lined up to help President Saddam.

If there is war in the Gulf, Western experts are convinced that Iraq's response will include a terrorist campaign against Western targets. They argue that the Iraqis have no other way of taking the war far beyond their own frontiers and one British expert said: "If war broke out you could see an increase in terrorism on aircraft such as sabotage." Each country in the anti-Iraq alliance has been warned that its airlines would be at risk.

Some terrorist threats, however, remain unknown: have the changes in Beirut removed the threat of attacks by fundamentalist groups? Where does Colonel Gadaffi stand now? And has Cuba finally abandoned its interest in undermining the West?

Kasparov in chess turmoil

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

GARY Kasparov, the world chess champion, had difficulties yesterday analysing the adjourned position of the 21st game of his title defence against Anatoly Karpov in Lyons. He stayed awake until 4am going over the complexities which have left him facing serious problems in trying to force a draw.

By ingenious defence in the second session of play in France on Wednesday night he reduced the end game to one in which white had queen and knight against black's queen and two pawns.

This should lead to a draw. The moves so far:

Karpov white — Kasparov black

White	black	White	black
1 d4	Nf6	34 Ka2	b4
2 c4	g6	35 axb4	Ra5+
3 Nc3	Bg7	36 Kb1	Nb3
4 e4	d6	37 Kc2	Na1+
5 f3	0-0	38 Kb1	Nb3
6 Be3	e5	39 Qf2	Qd8
7 d5	Nh5	40 Rf7	Qe8
8 Qd2	f5	41 b5	Ra1+
9 0-0-0	a6	42 Kc2	Nc5
10 Bd3	c5	43 Rxg7	Kxg7
11 dxc5	Nxc5	44 Qxd4+	Qe5
12 Nd5	Be6	45 Qxe5+	dxe5
13 Bb6	Qd7	46 b6	Rg1
14 Nxf2	Rxc8	47 Na3	Ra1
15 Kb1	Qf7	48 Nc4	Rg1
16 Rhe1	Kh8	49 Na3	Ra1
17 Be2	Nf6	50 Nc4	Rg1
18 Bd3	Nd7	51 b4	Rxg2+
19 Bg1	Nc5	52 Kc3	Na4+
20 Nb5	Rcd8	53 Kb3	Nxb6
21 Nc3	Nd4	54 Nxb6	Rg3
22 Ncd5	Bxd5	55 Kc3	Rxh3
23 Nxd5	fxe4	56 b5	h4
24 fxe4	b5	57 Nc4	Rxd3+
25 Rf1	Qd7	58 Kxd3	h3
26 cxb5	axb5	59 b6	h2
27 Rxf8+	Rxf8	60 b7	h1Q
28 h3	Qd8	61 b8Q	Qf1+
29 Bxg4	axd4	62 Kc3	Qc1+
30 Qe2	Qh4	63 Kb3	Qd1+
31 Rf1	Re8	64 Ka2	Qa4+
32 Rf4	Qg5	65 Na3	Qxe4
33 a3	h5	66 Qc7+	

Study says role of pornography in crime unproven

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

THE supposed causal link between pornography and sexual offences is unproven, according to a study published yesterday.

The long-awaited study, commissioned by the Home Office, found that while sex offenders often looked at obscene videos or magazines before or during crimes, there was no conclusive proof that pornography caused acts such as rape or indecent exposure.

Dismissing existing research as incomplete and partial, the report accuses people of being too quick to assume a positive link. The researchers say that evidence of the adverse effects of pornography is far less clear cut than is widely assumed. Studies in Europe and the United States have reached different conclusions and results of field studies and laboratory tests have sometimes clashed. The report concludes: "Sexual crimes and violent sexual crimes may be carried out by people who seem to have a special interest in certain kinds of pornography. However, the evidence does not point to pornography as a cause of deviant sexual orientation in offenders."

Baker: accepted that the research was inconclusive

The study, by Dr Guy Cumberbatch of Aston university and Dr Dennis Howitt of Loughborough university, adds that the widespread belief that pornography in Britain is increasing has no basis in fact, although more research is urgently needed.

Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, yesterday accepted that the research was inconclusive, but added: "Regardless of whether or not it encourages violent crime, pornography degrades all who come into contact with it. That is why the government has taken such tough action to control it."

Det Supt Michael Hames, head of Scotland Yard's obscene publications squad, said: "I've spoken to psychiatrists and sex offenders and they tell me different. Their view is that porn stimulates and fuels sex offending."

Mary Whitehouse, president of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, urged ministers to reject the study.

Leading article, page 13

Ninety criminals accuse disbanded crime squad

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

NINETY convicted criminals have made allegations ranging from fabricated evidence to police malpractice against officers of the disbanded West Midlands serious crime squad, the Police Complaints Authority said yesterday.

The authority was making a statement on the progress of the 15-month investigation into the squad. The enquiry is the largest of its kind in Britain, and investigators believe it could lead to charges against up to a dozen former officers. Eighteen appeals have been lodged with the Court of Appeal as a result of the investigation.

Earlier this month during a Court of Appeal hearing, judges were told the allegations include denial of access to a solicitor, confessions fabricated as suspects were driven to police stations, fabricated interview notes and accusations involving the countersigning of unsigned notes by senior officers.

The authority expects to complete the enquiry, carried out by a West Yorkshire police team of 28 officers, by May. Eighteen reports on allegations have been completed and more are to follow. They will be studied by the authority, the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and the West Midlands force.

The allegations arise from 738 arrests dating back to 1986. The statement published yesterday noted that files on five cases handled by the squad are still missing and important papers have gone astray. The enquiry headed by Donald Shaw, assistant chief constable of West Yorkshire, has interviewed 58 former members of the squad about 631 allegations and 140 officers from other squads concerning 206 allegations. Two hundred and thirteen exhibits from 43 cases have been or are being examined.

☐ Two Surrey policemen suspended during investigations into police conduct in the Guildford Four case will be returned to duty, the force announced yesterday. Three other officers who were investigated have also been told they have been cleared.

Last month the DPP announced that two former Surrey detectives and a third officer still serving would be charged with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

Commuters to sue British Rail over 'unreliable' service

By MICHAEL HORSNELL AND FRANCES GIBB

BRITISH Rail is being sued for negligence and misrepresentation in an outburst of commuter power on an InterCity line where 60 per cent of services regularly run late.

In what is believed to be the first action of its kind, 62 passengers facing fare increases of up to 15 per cent in January issued a writ yesterday claiming damages against British Railways and *InterCity's Anglia region.*

Commuters on the line from Norwich to London, Liverpool Street, which is plagued by the inadequacies of 25-year-old locomotives and decrepit rolling stock, immediately raised nearly three times the money necessary from a £1-a-head subscription when a small group decided on legal action. The writ was issued in the High Court by Colin Campbell, a London solicitor from Syleham, north Suffolk, who commutes from Diss, Norfolk.

It accuses British Rail of negligence for failing to provide a reasonable service and misrepresentation over its allegedly false inducement to passengers to buy season tickets in return for reliable trains.

During the 115-mile journey through Norfolk and Suffolk on what is known as the Cinderella line, Mr Campbell said: "We have used every other avenue and they have provided us with no satisfactory answer, while the service continues to deteriorate. We have no alternative but to go to the due process of law.

"We shouldn't have started this unless we thought we had a good prospect of success, even though we are taking on a nationalised industry."

The legal action coincides with a move by the Consumers' Association to challenge British Rail over its conditions of carriage. The association is calling for commuters to log journeys to provide the ammunition for possible court cases. Those would test whether the blanket exclusion of liability laid down by British Rail is reasonable under the Unfair Contract Terms Act of 1977.

The actions come in the wake of a disclosure by the rail watchdog, the Central Transport Consultative Committee, that a record 90,000 trains were cancelled last year and that passenger complaints rose by 50 per cent.

As passengers from East Anglia poured into London yesterday, commuter frustrations were freely expressed.

Chris Bunting, aged 34, from Diss, marketing director for a law firm and co-ordinator of the commuter group, said: "Why should BR be allowed to believe they have fulfilled their contract simply by delivering us alive?"

Chris Sowerby, aged 42, a company director from Ipswich, said: "When I started doing this journey my wife was convinced I was having an affair because I was getting home late so often. I catch an earlier train than I should need to make a 30-minute allowance for arriving late."

Tony Armes, aged 42, an insurance broker from Ipswich, said: "I changed my job six months ago. I am already being labelled a latecomer through no fault of mine."

British Rail declined to comment.

TONY HALL

Passenger power: Chris Bunting, co-ordinator of the commuter group on the Norwich to Liverpool Street line, during yesterday morning's journey to London

Frustration rides the 08.05 train from Norwich

The train now arriving at Liverpool Street ... is up to 45 minutes behind schedule. Michael Horsnell joined a typical commuter run to report on the frustration of those suing British Rail

THE despondency of passengers on board the InterCity 08.05 from Norwich to London was scarcely alleviated when the conductor opted for a cheery approach after the train broke down at Chadwell Heath station, 10 miles from its destination.

"This is a late train, a dead train, a deceased train," he announced as he shepherded 370 people onto the unscheduled suburban platform to await a local service, which eventually got them to Liverpool Street 45 minutes late.

That was on October 4, but the bad start to the day was only the beginning of worse to come. Shortly after people struggled to work they found British Rail rubbing salt in the wound with the announcement of unspecified fare increases to be implemented on January 6.

A survey by *The Times* shows that since October passengers have endured delays three mornings out of five on the 08.05. It is understood that for their unreliable service InterCity commuters in the Anglia region, who account for 30 per cent of all passengers on the line, will have to pay 14.93 per cent more for standard class season tickets from Norwich, which will go up to £3,480 a year, 10.92 per cent more from Ipswich (up to £2,560), and an extra 9.7 per cent (up to £1,900) from Colchester. The price of an annual first-class season ticket from Norwich is going up by 18.8 per cent to £5,220.

The value for money passengers are getting has been scrutinised by *The Times* over the 55 working days between October 4 and December 19. The survey, the *Anatomy of the 08.05*, found that the train, which is scheduled to arrive at Liverpool Street at 09.55 after calling at Diss, Stowmarket, Ipswich and Colchester, ran late 60 per cent of the time (33 journeys). The Anglia region has a punctual performance target of 65 per cent, however.

The region has a second performance target — 90 per cent of the 41 trains it runs in both directions each weekday should arrive within ten minutes of schedule. The researchers found that on 22 days (40 per cent) the 08.05 failed to meet that target. The average delay on the 33 late trains was 17 minutes 56.3 seconds — allowing for two delays of 60 minutes on each of the occasions when the 08.05 was cancelled.

The 13 locomotives employed on the Norwich to Liverpool Street service are not of the costly 125 high-speed variety, said to be more suited to longer runs, but class 86 models built in 1965. They can travel at 100mph but take one hour 50 minutes to complete the 115-mile journey when they are on schedule and have a reliability rate of 33,000 miles between failures, according to British Rail.

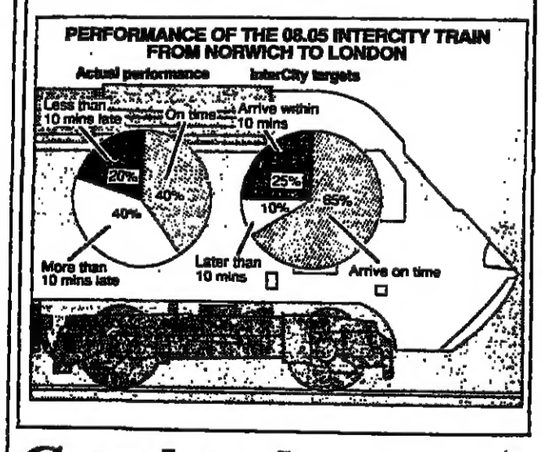
In October refurbished 15-year-old DVT (driving van trailer) push-pull units, which started life on the Glasgow-Edinburgh service, were introduced, but electrical problems have affected their reliability.

Ernie Sumbler, InterCity manager for Anglia region, says British Rail is paying the price for the austerity years of the late 1960s and the 70s when fares and investment were low. Some of the infrastructure goes back to the second world war, although electrification of the line was completed in 1988 and an £80 million rolling resignalling programme is due to be completed by 1995. Improved signalling will mean that trains may more easily switch from down to up lines and vice versa to bypass a broken down train. In addition more money will be spent on modernising the rolling stock. To make passengers feel better when they arrive late, the £1.1 billion redevelopment of Liverpool Street station will be completed next year.

Mr Sumbler said: "The railway was allowed to rot in the past. Despite what has been done since, I am not happy about things and what people think of us, and when I go past the concourse and see the arrivals board I get very depressed."

InterCity, which last year made a profit of £46.4 million, has operated without government grants since 1988 and is required to plan on the basis of a rate of return of 8 per cent on all its investment projects.

Anglia has declined to say what its regional profit was last year but commuters now taking legal action over its performance would like to know if the fare increases they are being asked to pay might not fund a railway of the 90s.



Crossbow ban urged

A judge called for a ban on crossbow sales yesterday after jailing a soldier for life for murdering his mother and her lover. Mr Justice Potts was speaking at Newcastle upon Tyne crown court where David Nicholson, aged 18, had pleaded guilty to murdering his mother, Anne Nicholson, aged 39, and William Kent, aged 51, in June.

The court was told that Nicholson, who bought the crossbow with his mother the day before, took the bodies from the house in Washington, Tyne and Wear, and hid them in a garden shed.

Tribunal date

An industrial tribunal hearing at which Alison Halford, assistant chief constable of Merseyside, will accuse the police authorities of sexual discrimination, will go ahead on January 7 in spite of an appeal by the police and the home office for an adjournment.

Fish warning

People eating fish caught in the Irish Sea are getting higher doses of radiation as the affects of previous discharges from Sellafield are now evident, British Nuclear Fuels said yesterday.

Road closed

The A57 Snake Pass between Sheffield and Manchester will be closed for several days after being blocked by a landslide caused by heavy rain yesterday.

Libel settlement

The Independent has made a donation to the National Aids Foundation in settlement of a libel action brought by Robert Maxwell, the publisher.

Water ruling

South West Water authority was cleared yesterday of polluting the Camel with aluminium sulphate. The authority denies a further charge of causing a public nuisance.

Arsonist held

A boy aged 15 from St Austell, Cornwall, who started fires causing £300,000 in damage because he liked to see fire engines in action, was detained for up to 10 years yesterday.

Running scared

A driver in Coleford, Gloucestershire, who saw a police checkpoint and, believing he would fail a breath test, rolled down a bank, waded through a brook and ate bread from a bird-table to soak up the alcohol was found by police not to have been over the limit.

Talking turkey

The prime minister was given a 32lb turkey by the British Turkey Federation yesterday.

COURVOISIER.
And the evening began.

Labour dismisses ministers' plan for Scottish senate

By KERRY GILL

A GOVERNMENT plan to establish a Scottish senate as a muted form of devolution was dismissed last night by the Labour party as merely a belated recognition of the popular demand for a full Scottish parliament.

The government and senior members of the Conservative party are examining the possibility of the creation of a Scottish senate in Edinburgh that would take control of some functions controlled by the regional councils and could question the work of the Scottish Office.

The Scottish National Party said the idea was totally inadequate and a "half-baked load of nonsense".

The option, which has come under consideration since John Major became prime minister, would lead to the abolition of the regional councils, leaving a single tier of district local authorities. Members of the senate would be elected, initially having two representatives from each of the nine regions.

It would not have power to raise revenue, but would take over functions such as roads. The Scottish Office would control education, fire and the police.

The idea is seen as a way of undermining demands for a Scottish parliament with revenue-raising powers, called for by the constitutional convention, most of whose members belong to the Labour party.

The convention, a group of Labour and Liberal Democrat politicians, trade unionists, churchmen and councillors, issued a detailed demand for home rule last month. Today, it will present its agenda for the second stage of its campaign, "Towards Scotland's Parliament".

Murray Elder, Labour's Scottish secretary, said: "For the first time the government seems to be admitting that there is a need for change and that, at least, has to be welcomed. The main purpose appears to be for a very small senate whose principal role is to oversee the functions of the Scottish Office. It will not for a moment have powers to tell the Scottish Office what to do."

Mr Elder said the option under discussion did not address the fundamental call for a democratically accountable body with powers to make decisions on Scottish matters. The senate, he said, would be toothless and would only comment on rather than control the Scottish Office.

Allan Stewart, Scottish minister with responsibility for local government, has long favoured a single tier and the abolition of the regional councils. Last night, devolutionists believed that the report, which emerged yesterday, was a way of defusing the second stage of the home rule campaign, to be announced today.

Alex Salmond, the nationalist leader, said: "This proposal is pathetically inadequate. With no real legislative or financial powers and no voice in Europe, it is not even in the same ball park as what Scotland really needs in the new Europe of the Nineties."

The Tory scheme was trailed by Bill Walker, MP for Tayside North and vice-chairman of the Scottish party. He has discussed the idea with Mr Stewart and will publish a discussion document on the proposals in the new year.

CRISPIN RODWELL

Party mood: Neil Kinnock during his visit to the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, in Belfast yesterday

New peers give Tories bigger majority

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE creation of seven life peers today in Margaret Thatcher's resignation honours list confirms the overall majority for the Conservatives in the Lords as well as in the Commons.

In the past, after defeats in the upper House the government managers have always argued that the Tories did not have a majority over the combined forces of independent and Opposition peers. Mrs Thatcher's custom of ensuring that more Tories than independent or Opposition peers were created in successive lists eventually led to the change.

The latest figures drawn up by Lords officials of those entitled to take their seat discloses a Conservative majority of two over the other benches. Mrs Thatcher's honours list gives Lord Denham, the government chief whip in the Lords, an extra seven peers.

The official composition before today's additions reads: Conservatives 443; independent (unwhipped) including bishops, 256; Labour, 113; Liberal Democrat, 55; and Social Democrat, 17.

Many of the peers will never or rarely appear in the Lords either through apathy, old age or pressure of other business. Unlike the Commons whips, Lord Denham has no sanctions to hold over any disobedient peers who take the Tory whip.

The overall majority will make government defeats less likely. But Lord Waddington, the new leader of the Lords, with the support of John Major, is also committed to improving relations both between the government and the Lords and members of both Houses.

In recent years most of the big Lords rebellions on poll tax, education and local government reforms were led by Tory peers disenchanted with Mrs Thatcher's policies. Tension between the Conservative benches and the government was further increased by the former prime minister's perceived indifference to the workload imposed on peers by heavy, often poorly drafted, legislation.

The new prime minister signalled a different approach by appointing the former home secretary Lord Waddington to be leader of the Lords and by sitting in the chamber during his maiden speech to the upper House last week.

Lord Waddington has also retained his parliamentary private secretary, Martin Brandon-Bravo, as a link with the Commons and will encourage Tory backbench MPs to frequent the Lords to break down the ignorance in the elected chamber about the revising work of the peers. In addition, he is to urge Commons ministers to brief peers before their bills arrive in the Lords.

Dobson wants value for cash

The Labour party is putting pressure on the government to get value for the taxpayer when the power-generating companies are sold next year. Frank Dobson, shadow energy secretary, said yesterday that the two companies, National Power and PowerGen, are worth together £13.2 billion.

In a letter to John Wakeham, the energy secretary, he says that the government intends to sell them for only £3.5 billion. He maintains that, although the regional electricity companies were worth £16.1 billion, the government priced them at £5.2 billion. "This time even you and your expensive advisers could be wise before the event", Mr Dobson said.

£5bn cheques cashed

Cheques worth about £5.3 billion were cashed by the public for the United Kingdom public offer of shares in the regional electricity distribution companies. About £4.2 billion of that has been repaid as a result of scaled-down or unsuccessful applications, David Heathcoat-Amory, energy minister, said in a written Commons reply.

Recycled copy paper

The environment department is conducting trials on the use of recycled paper for high speed photocopying and is considering a trial on its use for computer printers, David Trippier, the environment minister, said in a Commons written reply.

The department uses recycled paper for most of its work and is preparing guidance for other departments on the use of recycled material and on energy efficiency.

Caravan bill

A government bill exempting caravan owners from paying the community charge on their vehicles when they are used only for holidays was given an unopposed second reading in the Lords.

Christmas break

Both Houses of Parliament rose for the Christmas recess. They will return on January 14.

Fierce protests at government letter

By JOHN WINDER

A LETTER sent by a minister to all MPs to rally opposition to a backbencher's bill led to bitter protests yesterday and an appeal to the Speaker.

The Independent Social Democrat MP, Rosie Barnes, complained that William Waldegrave, the health secretary, had criticised her bill without having read it.

Mrs Barnes, MP for Greenwich, said last night: "I am outraged. My bill has not been published and was only deposited today. The minister made a series of criticisms which are addressed and met in the bill."

The bill, to provide for compensation for mistakes made in the National Health Service without the need to establish negligence, is first on the list for debate on February 1. That would give it a good chance of receiving second reading unless the government organises opposition.

The minister's letter said that the bill was not the most effective way of achieving Mrs Barnes's objective.

The bill would end the present situation in which those who want to obtain damages for injuries resulting from NHS treatment have to prove negligence. The principle has led to strong criticism of the government over attempts by haemophiliacs to get compensation because of HIV-infected blood used in their treatment.

In her letter to the Speaker, Mrs Barnes described the minister's round robin as a grave contempt of the procedures of the House.

The bill, the text of which was released yesterday, would secure for NHS patients the same implied terms of quality and description in respect of goods, including medicines, blood and appliances, as private patients. It would set up a medical injuries compensation board to establish a fund so that the government no longer found itself opposing claims for compensation.

Mrs Barnes's supporters believe that the government wants the bill to be lost for lack of positive support rather than rejected on a vote in what may be election year.

Ulster protection

SECURITY forces in Fermanagh, the south-west border county of Northern Ireland, are to increase operations so as to protect and reassure those who have been put at risk there in the latest resurgence of intimidation and threats (John Winder writes).

Brian Mawhinney, Northern Ireland minister, told the Commons yesterday that measures were in place to protect people at risk.

The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, had condemned those who criticised traders who advertised that they would not serve the security forces because they had been threatened by the IRA with reprisals against their families.

He knew how he would feel if, living in that kind of isolated community, he had a phone call saying that if he did not want to see his twin sons in their coffins, he should not serve the security forces.

He complained that closing some checkpoints on the border had left Protestant families in a government-created no man's land, and they were terrified.

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هكذا من الأصل

US seeks to limit damage of warning by Gulf chief

From Susan Ellicott in Washington

THE United States struggled to heal a weakened strategy of diplomatic pressure on Baghdad yesterday after the deputy commander of American forces in the Gulf said his troops would not be ready to attack Iraq by January 15.

Pentagon officials accompanying Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, on a visit to the Gulf tried to play down remarks made by Calvin Waller, a lieutenant-general and second in command to Norman Schwarzkopf in Operation Desert Shield, in an unusually candid interview with reporters. General Waller was widely seen as undermining the Bush administration's efforts to coerce President Saddam Hussein into withdrawing from Kuwait before the United Nations deadline or risk the use of force against his troops.

It was not immediately clear to what extent the general had spoken out of line or was merely reflecting in public increasing warnings to the White House by senior military officials that American troops will not be ready to launch an offensive by the United Nations deadline authorizing the use of force against Iraq.

The defensive reaction of administration officials appeared to scotch speculation among foreign policy analysts and some members of Congress that the general was deliberately trying to misinform Baghdad about America's intentions in the Gulf.

In Saudi Arabia, one administration official said America had "never said, 'January 15, 16 or 23 is when we are going to go to war'."

"If I were Saddam Hussein, I would still worry about January 15," the official added. "He cannot know what we will do if he does not get out." Pete Williams, the Pentagon spokesman, said Mr Cheney "was not displeased" with the general's comments even though they went way beyond similar remarks made by the defence secretary earlier this week.

For weeks, the Pentagon has been expressing support for a more cautious approach to resolving the Gulf confrontation than some of Mr Bush's senior cabinet members. The debate over the timing of a possible attack is split between senior military officials, who would prefer to give newly arrived troops time to acclimatize to the desert and learn to use their equipment, and those who think that delaying an attack until after January 15 would give President Saddam a psychological victory he could exploit for propaganda purposes in the Arab world.

The administration's attempts to play down the importance of January 15 contrasted with recent efforts by senior United States officials, including President Bush, to arrange high-level talks between Iraq and America before the deadline.

The discussions proposed by Washington have been put on ice after Washington argued that a meeting between James Baker, the secretary of state, and Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, could not take place as late as January 12, the date offered by Baghdad. Washington has said that President Saddam would not be able to pull back all his troops from Kuwait by the deadline and wants January 3.

As recently as last Monday, President Bush said of the January 15 deadline: "I think that at midnight, if he's not totally out of Kuwait, the United Nations sanctions will be fulfilled."

Question time: Edward Heath reporting to the US Senate armed services committee on the Gulf. The former prime minister, who met President Saddam Hussein in October, was the only non-American asked to testify

Israeli general to give names in bribery scandal

From A Correspondent in Jerusalem

A WIDENING bribery scandal involving the Israeli air force's procurement of American-made equipment has prompted calls here for reform in the purchasing system and for the air force commander to resign.

Yesterday, Amnon Strasnov, the military advocate general and chief prosecutor, confirmed that plea-bargaining had started with the main suspect, Brigadier-General Rami Dotan, and said he had agreed to return any money illegally acquired and to name his accomplices. In exchange, General Dotan's wife would not be prosecuted.

The general has not been charged, but has been under arrest since October. It is normal in the Israeli legal system for charges to be delayed until investigations are complete. Israeli media reports say three other people have been arrested, including two civilians and a colonel who headed the air force quartermaster branch.

According to Israeli newspapers, General Dotan and his associates may have garnered as much as $10 million (£5.2 million) in bribes and kickbacks from buying American equipment. Israel television this week alleged much of the fraud occurred in 1984 and 1985 while General Dotan was head of the defence ministry acquisition delegation in New York. It also alleged that spare parts and equipment worth millions of pounds never reached their destinations in Israel.

Yesterday, Raanan Cohen, an opposition Labour MP, called on the air force commander, Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, to resign.

Israeli military officials refuse to name the American companies involved, but General Electric has announced in Washington that it has initiated "internal investigations concerning purchase orders placed with companies said to be involved in the Israeli investigations".

This month, Yair Klein, a reserve army colonel, pleaded guilty to exporting military technology and equipment without a licence to Colombia. He worked at a training programme in Colombia which he said assisted farmers threatened by left-wing rebels, but which the Colombian government said trained forces for drug barons.

Ershad's deputy arrested

Dhaka — Police have arrested Bangladesh's former vice-president, Moudud Ahmed, at a hideout, a senior government official said.

"He was arrested by a special squad of police ... and brought to his own house where he is now detained," Azimuddin Ahmed, the interior ministry secretary, said. Mr Ahmed went into hiding after Hussain Mohammad Ershad, the former president, was arrested with his family on December 12, having resigned after a violent student campaign. He is under investigation over allegations of corruption. *(Reuter)*

Army protest

Santiago — Chilean army army units ended a day-long protest over reports that the civilian government was seeking the resignation of the armed forces commander, General Augusto Pinochet, the defence minister, Patricio Rojas said. *(AFP)*

Cocaine pact

Rome — The Sicilian Mafia had a pact with the notorious Medellin drug cartel in Colombia to import and distribute drugs in the Mediterranean region, according to an Italian police report. A total of 1,100 lb of cocaine was imported and distributed since 1987. *(AFP)*

Party outlawed

Bangkok — Burma's military rulers have outlawed the National League for Democracy party that won an overwhelming victory in last May's general election. The move came after the setting-up of a rival democratic government in the jungle. *(Reuter)*

Over a barrel

Niagara Falls, Ontario — David Munday, whose steel-and-foam rubber barrel became stuck at the brink of Niagara Falls as he was trying to shoot them, has been fined $Can 4,375 (£1,956). He was fished out of the swirling waters by rescue workers. *(AP)*

Baghdad in fear as time runs out

From A Correspondent in Baghdad

A PALPABLE sense of dread has settled over Baghdad, with the growing perception that the time for diplomacy is running out and the Iraqi capital may one day soon come under air attack.

Nearly a million Baghdad residents — one-quarter of the city — are reported to be ready to begin an evacuation exercise today. Word which reached here that American-led ground forces may not be fully ready for combat by January 15, as stated by Brigadier-General Calvin Waller on Wednesday, has not improved morale. Most people know that the combined allied air forces have stated their combat readiness since August. "For us, it is bad enough to know that an air war will be fought, because it will eventually reach Baghdad," said one Iraqi. Another said: "We look to the south (towards Saudi Arabia) and we look to the west (towards Israel), and we see our biggest fears coming from the skies."

In Baghdad, the tops of tall buildings bristle with anti-aircraft guns. The idea of a Tornado or F18 roaring out of the sky is petrifying for those who remember the deadly Iranian bombardments of the capital in late 1986.

A Western diplomat asked: "The US and foreign ministers have set no dates and the foreign hostages are all gone — what do you suppose would give the Iraqis hope for optimism that peace is at hand?

"They felt a little safer with the hostages around. They thought that would ensure a dialogue, but that card is gone. Now there is a sort of sombre nervousness here."

Another diplomat, when visiting the foreign ministry here recently, saw signs on the staircase saying: *al-Majla* (meaning "to the shelter"). Nervous employees said in state-secret tones that it was "only the way to the basement where we store things".

In the past few months, observers say, several suburbs around Baghdad have been evacuated in drills, as well as some sections of the city itself, especially round the railway and bus stations.

Iraqis say publicly they are ready to meet any challenge short of nuclear attack, including a full-scale bombardment of Baghdad, which observers and diplomats reject as unlikely because huge civilian casualties would rally rather than undermine support for President Saddam Hussein.

But privately, Iraqis show signs that the war of nerves is getting to them. "This is not like the war with Iran," said one waiter. "There would be more planes, more technology against us. The idea scares me."

It also scares them to see reservists being called up in such numbers. Some Iraqis say all men over the age of 18 have now been trained and sent to Kuwait or the Saudi and Turkish borders.

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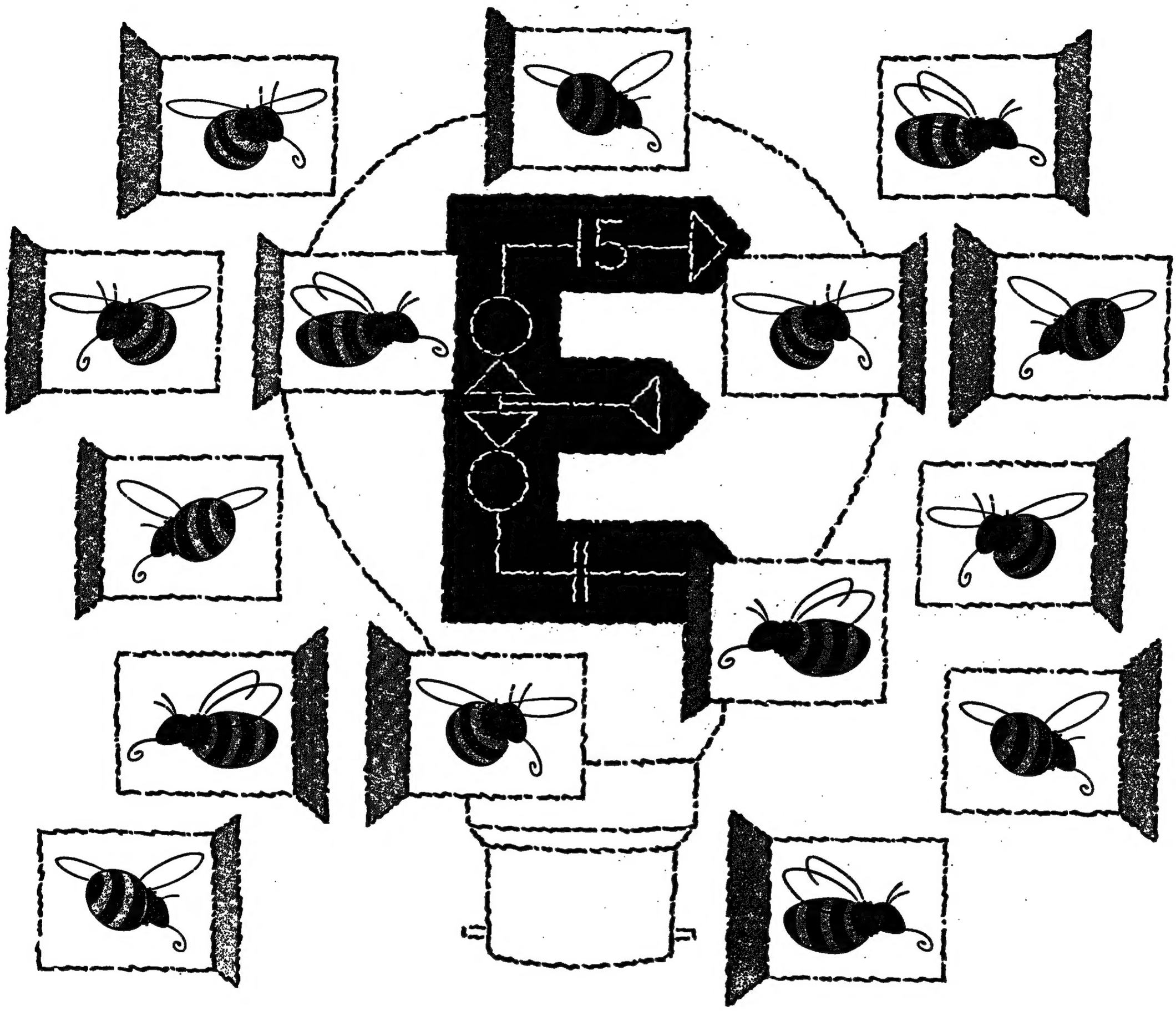

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Ruthless repression threatens to replace face of humanity

The departure from the Moscow foreign ministry of one of President Gorbachev's closest allies will probably mean the death knell of the Soviet leader's experiments with democracy and economic reform, Dominic Lieven writes

EDUARD Shevardnadze was much the most civilised Soviet foreign minister since the second world war. He embodied and patronised the new thinking in Moscow which welcomed the end of the cold war and proclaimed the existence of universal standards of law and humanity underlining international relations. His genial personality and skilful diplomacy went far to mask the sharp decline in Soviet power in the 1980s.

When Mr Shevardnadze became foreign minister in 1985, his earlier career seemed to hold little promise either of liberalism or diplomatic skill. Born in 1928, the son of a teacher, his contacts with the non-Soviet world had been limited. He had been a typical high-flyer in the Soviet party bureaucracy, and had worked in the Komsomol (Young Communist League) of his native Georgia, rising to be its head. In 1961, he became party boss of one of Georgia's regions, before becoming Georgian minister of internal affairs (that is, police chief) in 1964.

He was in the post for eight years, during which he amassed evidence of the colossal corruption of Georgia's first secretary, V. P. Mzhavanadze, whom he replaced in 1972. Mr Shevardnadze remained boss of Georgia for 13 years, winning a reputation for honesty, toughness and interest in economic reform.

Since 1985 Mr Shevardnadze, together with Aleksandr Yakovlev, has been President Gorbachev's closest ally and one of the key figures on the liberal wing of the ruling elite. His resignation will probably represent the death-knell of the strategy pursued by Mr Gorbachev since 1987.

After creating a democratic movement and giving it bases in the parliaments (soviets) and press, the president has manoeuvred between these democratic forces and conservative institutions such as the party, army, KGB, and industrial ministries.

Though brilliantly successful in the short run, this tactic is never easy to sustain. President Gorbachev's programme of controlled liberalisation released powerful currents which swept him into concessions (for example, the end of one-party rule) which he never intended to make. The Soviet leadership was confronted with three crises: democratisation in a country with few democratic traditions; dismantling the world's deepest-rooted socialist economy; and decolonising the last great European empire. The collapse of the economy and the threatened disintegration of the union made it impossible for Mr Gorbachev to continue his balancing act between left and right. In recent weeks, he has become more conservative, emphasising the impossibility of secession and his doubts about certain aspects of economic reform (for example, private property in land).

He has also argued – correctly – that political order and an end to jurisdictional disputes between centre and regions are prerequisites for economic recovery. The increasingly authoritarian tone in President Gorbachev's speeches, not to mention those of the military leadership, suggest that an attempt will be made to secure this order by repression from Moscow.

Memories surface of martial law in Poland, and of the mass killings by Chinese troops in Tiananmen Square. But the Soviet Union is not a nation state like Poland or China: it is a multinational empire, with legitimate elected governments in its various republics, all of which would have to be overthrown or bypassed. Opposition is well organised.

The reliability of middle-ranking officers and a largely amateur non-commissioned officer corps is not to be taken for granted, particularly in confrontations with the Russian and Ukrainian masses on the streets.

To succeed, repression would eventually have to be ruthless and bloody. If it were, the generals and KGB could probably secure control of all the main areas of the Soviet Union in the short run. In Russia itself, their ability to force some goods out of the black market might even win them temporary popularity.

The long-term price of repression would, however, probably be the complete and bloody disintegration of the empire.

Even those committed to holding the union together would be wiser to follow Boris Yeltsin's path of trying to create a voluntary and initially loose confederation of nations, in time increasingly bound together by mutual economic and security interests.

Mr Yeltsin's strategy, however, requires a genuinely post-imperial and post-socialist leadership in Moscow. Mr Gorbachev's mind is still imperial and socialist, as are to an even greater extent those of most of his generals. In a sense who can blame them, for how could military mentalities keep up with the Soviet Union's dramatic collapse from superpower status to disintegration in the course of only five peacetime years?

Mr Shevardnadze's resignation is a dramatic attempt to avert repression. Possibly it will scare and sober Mr Gorbachev. Certainly it will terrify Western leaders, for whom the prospect of dealing with an unstable dictatorship in Moscow amid growing confusion in Eastern Europe and the Gulf conflict is appalling.

Dominic Lieven is senior lecturer in Russian government at the London School of Economics.

AMERICA

Washington alarm over Gorbachev's vulnerability

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE resignation of Eduard Shevardnadze, a principal architect of hugely improved superpower relations over the past five years, stunned Washington and left American officials deeply worried about the Soviet Union's future direction. The Bush administration has invested so much in seeing the success of President Gorbachev and Mr Shevardnadze that the foreign minister's departure at this critical time is seen as little short of a disaster.

The administration's biggest concern is that Mr Shevardnadze's resignation would further undermine President Gorbachev's precarious position, leaving the beleaguered Soviet leader still more vulnerable to hardline conservatives who want draconian measures to restore order. A move against rebellious republics or opposition groups would be a serious setback for United States-Soviet relations.

The other serious worries are that Moscow's critical and hitherto robust support for the American stance in the Gulf could weaken under Mr Shevardnadze's successor, that efforts to conclude a strategic arms reduction treaty (Start) before February's Moscow summit could be jeopardised, and that Moscow's eagerness to resolve residual Cold War conflicts around the world, particularly in Afghanistan, could diminish, though American officials expressed qualified optimism on some of these counts.

The White House said it wanted the improving trend of United States-Soviet relations to continue. It expected the February summit to go ahead and hoped a treaty to reduce strategic nuclear weapons would be concluded in time for Presidents Bush and Gorbachev to sign it then.

Mr Shevardnadze and Mr James Baker, the secretary of state, had established an exceptionally close rapport over the past two years which undoubtedly helped smooth the way towards German reunification, the freeing of Eastern Europe and agreements to cut conventional forces in Europe and medium-range nuclear weapons.

One senior official said yesterday that Mr Shevardnadze's announcement had surprised the administration as much as it had Mr Gorbachev, and was a matter of "serious regret".

Even before Mr Shevardnadze's resignation, senior state department officials were concluding that Mr Gorbachev's days as a champion of reform were probably over and a period of repression was on the way. They said Mr Shevardnadze's resignation would probably accelerate the trend towards authoritarianism, but there was a slight chance it could act "like a splash of cold water" in Mr Gorbachev's face, giving him the opportunity to rally the reformist wing of the party.

Hitherto the administration has refrained from any action which could undermine Mr Gorbachev, but repression in, for example, the Baltic republics could force Washington to side openly with the secessionists. It would also render impossible further assistance such as the aid package announced by President Bush last week.

Because Mr Gorbachev himself had ordered the Soviet Union's generally robust support for United States policy in the Gulf, the administration expects that support to continue, but the official said that the possible appointment of Yevgeni Primakov, an arabist with close ties to Iraq, as Mr Shevardnadze's successor would cause concern. Mr Primakov could press for a compromise solution.

The administration is hopeful that Mr Shevardnadze's resignation will not derail the Start treaty.

Grave warning, page 12

Taking the strain: President Gorbachev bowing his head in the Congress of People's Deputies soon after Mr Shevardnadze's resignation

BRITAIN

Anxiety at hardliners' emergence

By ANDREW MCEWEN
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE warning by Eduard Shevardnadze that the Soviet Union is moving towards dictatorship has underlined fears that the West has been suppressing for some time.

The British government and its Western partners have tried to avoid showing concern over the increasing influence of conservative communists and the military. Without Mr Shevardnadze's moderating influence it will be harder to ignore the trends.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said his main feeling was sadness but added: "On political grounds I think we all have to feel some concern at the reasons he gave, the explanation which he offered. It is too early to draw any definite conclusions, but we hope that the policies of reform which he supported will continue."

Britain gives Mr Shevardnadze much of the credit for the successful completion of a series of arms control treaties, and for Moscow's efforts to put pressure on President Saddam Hussein. His role in the unification of Germany was also substantial.

Late on Wednesday, a senior source disclosed that the government was troubled by indications that the Soviet military had not fully disclosed the size of its arsenal in an apparent attempt to circumvent the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty.

President Gorbachev's recent authoritarianism towards the Baltic republics has also caused worry. The source said that any use of undue force to prevent the republics leaving the union would force Britain to change its approach, cutting off the aid which the European Community decided in Rome to grant.

The first reaction in London to Mr Shevardnadze's resignation was hope that it was a tactical ploy, leading to a vote in the Congress of People's Deputies appealing to him to stay in office. However, the source said there was no sign that this was his intention.

The British view was that his speech should not be taken as an attack on Mr Gorbachev. Soviet foreign policy will not necessarily be changed deliberately, but might stagnate.

Whitehall was probably relieved that Britain had not yet signed a friendship agreement with the Soviet Union – although the text had been largely agreed – unlike Germany, Spain, and France.

AROUND THE WORLD

Leaders express dismay and regret

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

EUROPEAN nations, allied to both Nato and the Warsaw Pact, reacted yesterday with dismay to Eduard Shevardnadze's resignation.

In Germany leading politicians were dismayed and alarmed by the news. In the margins of the first session of the newly elected Bundestag in Berlin, Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, said the Soviet foreign minister's departure was a "dramatic step," adding: "I regret this very much." It was doubly important now, he said, to strengthen the Soviet reform process.

The chancellor said that Mr Shevardnadze had been very receptive to the development of Europe. His resignation had drawn attention to the dangers of what was happening inside the Soviet Union. "We can only hope that the reform process survives," he said. "It is good for the Soviet Union, for the relations between people and the development of Europe." He refused to speculate about whether President Gorbachev was now at risk.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, issued a statement saying: "If the Soviet foreign minister takes such a decision, this must be an occasion for everyone in the West to recognise the need to support even more the forces of reform there." He added that Mr Shevardnadze had been a friend, whose help in the unification of Germany had been crucial.

Hans-Jochen Vogel, the leader of the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), said he hoped that the resignation did not forshadow a change in the external and security policy of the Societ Union.

Count Otto Lambsdorff, leader of the liberal Free Democrats (FDP), said that Germans should thank the Soviet foreign minister for all he had done to help the process of unification. The party regretted the departure of "a statesman for peace".

Germany, which pressured last week's European summit in Rome to agree an aid package for the Soviet Union to help President Gorbachev's reforms survive, has so far sent DM 800 million (£280 million) worth of emergency supplies. This represents around 80 per cent of all that has been sent by the international community so far.

Kohl: need to strengthen Soviet reform process

In France, the government expressed "sadness" at Mr Shevardnadze's decision and hailed the "courage" of the Soviet foreign minister who did much to improve relations between Moscow and Paris.

Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, told reporters: "I hope this cry of alarm by M Shevardnadze will be heard ... (and that) this will serve as a warning to Western countries and all those who drag their feet on the aid that needs to be sent" to President Gorbachev.

M Dumas said he "experienced a feeling of sadness and regret at the resignation" and paid tribute to Mr Shevardnadze for having "played a big role in the rapprochement" between France and the Soviet Union, in the transformation of Eastern Europe and in the ending of the Cold War.

Hungary, the first east European Nation to break out of the Soviet sphere and to announce its intention to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact, expressed regret and sadness that Mr Shevardnadze, who was regarded as a firm supporter of Budapest's reform policies, was to step down.

A foreign ministry spokesman praised Mr Shevardnadze as a man of great integrity and vision who "could see the realities facing Europe as it nears the end of the century."

Tamas Katona, the secretary of state for foreign affairs, said that although Mr Shevardnadze's presence would be sorely missed on the world stage he did not believe the scheduled withdrawal of Soviet forces from Hungary will be impaired by his departure.

He added however, that discussions on the dissolution of the military command of the Warsaw Pact, which Hungary would like to see scrapped by mid-1991 as a precondition for dismantling the entire military block, might be affected if right-wing or military forces gained strength in Moscow.

In Czechoslovakia neither President Havel nor the Foreign Ministry would comment on the effects Mr Shevardnadze's resignation might have on the country.

Jan Petranek, a Soviet affairs specialist at the Prague newspaper *Lidove Noviny* said yesterday that Mr Shevardnadze's offer to step down was a tactical move designed to force Mr Gorbachev to make a stand as a reformer and stop hesitating.

In Poland, the government reacted with concern to the resignation announcement and expressed concern that the move could herald a return to the conservativism of the pre-Gorbachev era. The Foreign Ministry, with unusual caution, repeatedly refused to comment on the implications of the decision.

The view from Japan was that Mr Shevardnadze's genial manner had done much to thaw some of the iciness that still exists between Tokyo and Moscow.

NATO

Fears for future of European forces treaty

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

TWO fears among Western defence officials were immediately raised by the resignation of Eduard Shevardnadze and his warnings of imminent dictatorship in the Soviet Union: that the recently signed Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty would not be ratified, and that President Saddam Hussein might be able to take advantage of political turmoil in Moscow.

A number of scenarios were being studied at high official level yesterday, all of which put in some doubt the carefully laid plans by East and West to forge closer links.

One senior British official admitted that the resignation of such a well respected Soviet statesmen had come at the worst possible time, with the West "uncovered" in Europe's central front because of the exodus of troops, tanks, artillery and aircraft from Germany to the Gulf, and with the need to keep the Soviet Union firmly inside the international coalition against Iraq.

The official said: "It is possible that if President Gorbachev were to resign, his replacement might be a figure from the old order who would be anti-West. But there is no reason to suppose that such a leader would be interested in aggression against the West, even under the old argument of pursuing externalisation (a foreign venture) to cover up domestic problems. We don't think that will happen. It's more likely that a new leader from the right would be more interested in sorting out law and order in the Soviet Union and would see the sense in having a benevolent West."

The official pointed out that on the "good side", the Soviet military had been moving large numbers of tanks and artillery east of the Urals in recent months. Soviet troops and equipment were also leaving Czechoslovakia and Hungary. "So we may have been moving stuff out of Germany to go to the Gulf, but the Soviets have been doing the same by removing so much equipment out of the central area of Europe," he said.

While the possibility of an anti-Western Soviet leader emerging was being discussed in Whitehall yesterday, the more pressing concerns were over the future of the CFE treaty and the Gulf.

Officials said that the Soviet military were already attempting to circumvent the treaty by switching equipment from the army to the navy and by failing to provide truthful figures of armour deployed in the Soviet Union west of the Urals. "We have to face the possibility that the treaty will not be ratified," one official said, "in which case the Soviet general staff could bring back all the equipment they have sent east of the Urals. But I don't think this would mean another arms race."

He added: "What is also of concern is that Saddam Hussein might feel he can see a chink in the coalition. We need the Soviet Union to be solidly behind us in facing up to Iraq."

However, officials at Nato's supreme headquarters allied powers Europe, in Casteau, Belgium, said that even with the Soviet Union facing growing instability, no-one imagined that the West would face military aggression.

General John Galvin, supreme allied commander Europe, said yesterday: "All of us in the West want to see the Soviet people continue on a track that will lead to full democracy, free enterprise and respect for human rights. But this has to be done in a way that maintains order without sacrificing democratic principles."

Manfred Wörner, Nato secretary-general, said he hoped the turbulence in the Soviet Union would not put at risk the development of full democracy, freedom and human rights. "During his term of office, Mr Shevardnadze made a decisive personal contribution to overcome the Cold War and to embark on an era of peace and co-operation in Europe," he said.

Principled departure stuns Kremlin-watchers

From CHARLES BREMNER
IN NEW YORK

Nothing demonstrates more vividly the upheaval in the Soviet way of business than the manner which Eduard Shevardnadze chose to relinquish office. Resigning on principle is something that politicians in the West do only in the most extreme of circumstances. In the United States such an act is so rare that commentators yesterday had trouble recalling the last instance. But for the Soviet Union, such a gesture by a figure at the pinnacle of power is unprecedented. To do it, as Mr Shevardnadze did, on television under the eyes of the nation, simply took the breath away yesterday from what used to be known as the kremlinological world. The behind-the-scenes drama which produced Boris Yeltsin's politburo resignation in 1987 does not count since he was clearly on the losing side.

Even searching back to the earliest days of the Bolshevik revolution, scholars could not find any case of a high-ranking Kremlin official stepping down over principle. "Nobody ever voluntarily resigned," said Marshall Shulman, emeritus professor of international relations at Columbia University and one of the world's leading Soviet experts. Two famous resignations – that of Nikolai Bukharin, the Bolshevik theoretician and commissar in 1929, and Georgy Malenkov, who resigned as prime minister in 1955, stemmed from power struggles, he noted. Bukharin was later executed by Stalin.

Things have, of course, changed a lot since Stalin's days when the merest policy contretemps could mean a quick trip to the graveyard, or forced labour in Siberia, but departure has usually implied disgrace or at least the oblivion of non-personhood. From Nikita Khrushchev's removal in 1964 to Andrei Gromyko's "retirement" from the presidency in 1988, there were certain rules to be followed in the interest of the party, state and personal health. Gromyko, the consummate Kremlin servant who was pushed out of his seemingly permanent foreign minister's job to make way for Mr Shevardnadze in 1986, once summed up the old rules: 'You know how it is around here. It's a bit like the Bermuda Triangle. Evey now and then one of us disappears."

Since Stalin's death in 1953 and the execution of Lavrenti Beria, the secret police chief, and a handful of the dictator's other henchmen, top Soviet officials have retreated into the comfortable obscurity of a party pension. More often than not, this meant setting up home in a well-guarded Moscow flat or behind the high walls of a dacha in the birch forests off Moscow's southwestern suburbs. Even a few of Stalin's retirees survived in retirement into the Gorbachev years, notably Vyacheslav Molotov, his long-serving foreign minister who died after pre-posthumous rehabilitation in 1986.

The party is still said to be caring for Lazar Kaganovich, aged 97 who was Stalin's industrial commissar and one of his lieutenants in crime. Even most of Leonid Brezhnev's now discredited comrades went on to lives of privileged retirement.

Professor Shulman said he expects Mr Shevardnadze to observe the traditions and depart from the stage. His dramatic resignation was testimony to the current disintegration of Soviet political life, as well as to Mr Shevardnadze's passionate, emotional character, he said.

Under the old rules, leaving office voluntarily was so unpalatable an option that any self-respecting member of the elite clung on until forced out by death or his colleagues. Removal followed a well-worn ritual that, among other things, provided a good living for the army of Western sovietologists who were always called on to penetrate the mysteries of Kremlin power play. Sometimes, the official in question was simply absent from his usual spot in a welcoming ceremony or on the Lenin Mausoleum for one of the parades. More often, word of a Kremlin redundancy came at the bottom of a Central Committee communiqué headed "Organisational Matters".

De Klerk poised to scrap legislation on residential apartheid

From GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT de Klerk of South Africa is planning to introduce legislation early in the new year which will remove two of the three remaining pillars of apartheid, and pave the way for negotiations on a new constitution.

Government sources said yesterday that preliminary drafts of a bill repealing the Group Areas Act and the land acts, which segregate residential areas and reserve 87 per cent of the land for whites, have been completed, and will be presented to the cabinet in mid-January.

Mr de Klerk is expected to announce details of the reforms at the opening of parliament in Cape Town on February 1. The last apartheid law to go will be the Population Registration Act, which classifies race at birth. Mr de Klerk has pledged that it will be amended during constitutional negotiations. Also destined to go is the Free Settlement Areas Act of 1989, a clumsy attempt to compromise between segregationist right-wing whites and the desire to remove race as a criterion for residence.

The sources said hundreds of provincial and local government ordinances, based on apartheid legislation, would have to be repealed or amended next year. They said the "own affairs" concept, which segregates local authority activities, would be discussed in the negotiations. Until a settlement is reached, group area boundaries would remain in place and local authorities would continue to be racially based.

The land acts of 1913 and 1936 would retain recognition of tribal lands for the time being, protecting them from acquisition by white speculators. The reforms are unlikely to have an immediately noticeable effect, since only a tiny proportion of blacks have the capital to buy land or property in relatively affluent white areas.

The problems of implementing reforms were highlighted this week by a survey of medical services by researchers at the University of the Witwatersrand, which found that little had changed since the government opened hospitals to all races in May. The report said many public hospitals had racially separate wards, different entrances, and segregated X-ray and operating theatre facilities. Most continued to serve only one population group, because of their location.

The right-wing municipality of Bethal, in the eastern Transvaal, has demonstrated the lengths to which some communities will go to keep their facilities segregated. The municipality filled a public swimming pool with sand after claiming that blacks had swum naked there.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the local foreign correspondents' association, John Battersby, said yesterday that journalists were increasingly facing death threats while working in the black townships, and it was only a matter of time before one was killed. Mr Battersby said a television cameraman and a photographer were threatened in Thokoza township this week. It is believed that the aggressors were members of the Inkatha Freedom Party, which is led by the Zulu chief, Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Delighted by the challenge: Sadako Ogata yesterday

Japanese don accepts UN refugee role

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

SADAKO Ogata, the Japanese university professor who is expected to be officially approved today as the next United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, says she is too busy tying up academic matters before the term ends to think too much about her new job.

She said: "I am delighted and honoured to serve as UN high commissioner. I received a phone call this morning from the secretary-general of the UN, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar. He said: 'Why don't you work with me?', and I replied, 'I would like to help'."

Mrs Ogata is the first woman to take over the helm of one of the UN's main agencies and one of the few Japanese in a prominent role in a world body. "I'm delighted with the challenge," she said in Tokyo. "I'd like to see more and more Japanese coming up. We started out late, especially in the UN. It takes time to get established."

Mrs Ogata is aged 63 and the dean of the faculty of foreign studies at Sophia University in Tokyo. She is internationally minded and is being courted by the ruling Liberal Democrats to run for parliament.

She is no newcomer to the United Nations. She recently returned from Burma, where she investigated alleged human rights abuses for the UN Commission on Human Rights. She was Japan's representative on the commission from 1982 to 1985. She has also been chairwoman of the executive board of Unicef, the UN children's fund, and served as minister at Japan's UN mission from 1976 to 1978.

Her new job charges her with protecting the world's 15 million refugees. She said yesterday that it was too early to say what her priority would be.

Tokyo on brink of new scandal over MP's shares

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

JAPAN was wobbling near the edge of another embarrassing political scandal yesterday as public prosecutors prepared to charge a prominent ruling party politician and former cabinet minister for tax evasion.

Toshiyuki Inamura, an MP in Japan's lower house, is alleged to have concealed from the taxman about £11 million in profits from share deals. News programmes last night reported that Mr Inamura, whose home and office were raided by public prosecutors and was interrogated yesterday. They said Mr Inamura was expected to be charged next week.

Japanese press reports allege that Mr Inamura bought and sold shares on the advice of Mitsuhiro Kotani, a share speculator who was recently arrested on charges of stock market manipulation.

Mr Inamura's case came to light after he filed an amended tax return, saying he had made an omission in the original.

The colourful Mr Kotani is proving something of a headache for his former friends and associates, who include Yasuhiro Nakasone, the former prime minister. The chairman of Sumitomo bank, one of Japan's biggest, recently stepped down to take responsibility for illegal loans made by a former branch manager to Mr Kotani's speculation group. An aide to Mr Nakasone, in whose cabinet Mr Inamura served as environment minister, is reported to have made 120 million yen (£461,000) from trading in the shares of a company which Mr Kotani took over.

The *Asahi* newspaper, which led the press in exposing last year's Recruit bribery scandal, said in an editorial that "the authorities should probe this case thoroughly."

The drama unfolding around Mr Inamura has thrown another unflattering spotlight on Japan's money-soaked politics. The MPs and cabinet ministers who made windfall profits in the Recruit scandal by accepting cut-price shares in the information group, argued that the cash was not going into their own pockets.

Nakasone: Inamura was his environment minister

They protested that politics, like everything else in Japan, was expensive. Japanese MPs are expected to send gifts to constituents' weddings and to pay hotel bills when constituents visit them in Tokyo.

But despite the breast-beating that followed the Recruit affair, which brought down the administration of Noboru Takeshita, little seems to have changed in the Japanese political world.

Leaders of the main factions which make up the ruling Liberal Democratic Party are in the middle of handing out more than £4 million to their faction members as new year gifts. Ostensibly the money is to buy rice cakes, a traditional end-of-year delicacy. In reality it will be spent on supporting LDP-backed candidates in mayoral elections in April.

Mr Takeshita, playing Santa Claus, has just handed out three million yen each to more than 100 of his followers. Shintaro Abe, who would like to be Japan's next prime minister, has matched Mr Takeshita's generosity for about 90 of his followers.

In between signing the cheques, LDP leaders are thrashing out ideas for "political reform", a package they promise voters will clean up Japanese money politics once and for all.

Defence spending curbed

By JOE JOSEPH

TOKYO, bowing a little to the West's new warmness towards the East and to Washington's hints that Japan should shoulder more of the burden of being a superpower, is slowing down its defence spending for the first time in more than a decade, while boosting its share of the costs of American bases.

Even so, Japan will remain the world's third-biggest defence spender after the United States and the Soviet Union, with about 247,000 men and women in uniform. This is perhaps a peculiar position for a country whose constitution renounces war and, some say, bans the formation of any kind of army. Japan might have felt more awkward still had it unveiled big defence programmes only weeks after parliament failed to pass a bill to send a small contingent of non-combat troops to help its allies in the Gulf.

Misoji Sakamoto, the chief cabinet secretary, said yesterday that Japan would limit annual increases in defence spending to 2.93 per cent over the next five years, half of the average growth in the defence budget over the past 15 years, when the "Soviet threat" gave defence priority over public works, education and welfare budgets.

It is also likely that defence spending will slip back below 1 per cent of gross national product, an unofficial ceiling abandoned in 1987 by Yasuhiro Nakasone, the former prime minister, who felt that the time had come for Japan to be less prissy about strengthening its military muscle.

Mr Sakamoto said defence spending in the 1991-5 period would not top 22,750 billion yen (£88 billion) in all. That total might be adjusted downward after three years if, as anticipated, tensions in Asia relax further.

Japan also announced it would step up its contribution towards the cost of keeping 40,000 American troops stationed in Japan from about 40 per cent now to 50 per cent after five years. Japan's current annual bill of 440 billion yen will gradually rise to 530 billion yen by 1995.

Eating books is bad for you

Philip Howard

Food is an important part of a balanced diet. But we are in some danger of turning it into a secular religion. We are a generation of foodies and greedies and diet-fussers and health-nutters. Forests are cut down daily to produce the paper for acres of newsprint and containers-full of dreadful books about eating, illustrated with colour pictures of grub meant to look enticing, but having an emetic effect on me. J. M. Barrie sat next to Bernard Shaw at a dinner party. Aggressive vegetarian Shaw was served with a nouvelle cuisine dish of assorted, wanton greenery, decorated no doubt with kiwi fruit and diced peppers. Looking at the nasty mess, Barrie whispered to Shaw: "Tell me, have you already eaten that, or are you going to?"

The thing to do with food is cook it (a touch of oregano in the omelette, I think), eat it, enjoy it, and then shut up about it. Do not witter on over the coubiliac. Writing and talking about food are a bore. I do not want the chef or the patron or the waiter to read the menu out loud to me, with fatuously drooling and hyperbolic foody epithets, as though I were a greedy and backward child. When it comes to menus, hold the adjectives. They never do, though. Crispy, fluffy popcorn (as opposed to the soggy, matted sort?), fresh Maine lobster (as opposed to rotten?), and juicy tiger prawns (rather than desiccated pussy cat ones?), blended with a julienne of crispy vegetables.

That patronising nursery epithet, crispy, sums up the nonsense of foodspeak. Cooking and eating are not fine arts. Writing about them is absurdly high-flown and liturgical; and when you look at it, almost always rubbish. Nobody can be bothered to read the rubbish, so nobody notices. One of the few people to have written intelligently and without pomposity about food, the great Elizabeth David, is puzzled about crispy. What does it say more than crisp? In any case, why do you need to say it about something that is meant to be crisp when properly cooked? Surely it goes without saying? Even B. Levin the other day wrote about "a button of monkfish on a crispy bed". A crispy bed of what, dear boy? And why say crispy? For heavens sake don't tell him, but Bernard on food turns me off eating for a day and a half.

Television cookery demonstrators (a breed of modern pests who need an angry Juvenal to fry them crispy in epithets) have a vocabulary of only 20 words, of which 19 are twee, and six are "crispy". I suppose we have to excuse the dreaded Anton Mosimann, since he is Swiss, and cannot speak English. But do we have to put up with this constant baby drivel of yum-yum foody argot: nutty, crunchy, frizzy bacon, spicy rouille (if it ain't spicy, it ain't rouille, chum), crunchy vegetables, fluffy this and fluffy that, sticky perfection, "crunchy fresh wild mushrooms"? Is that last foody incantation not a contradiction rather than an oily tautology? When have mushrooms, either wild or tame, ever been crunchy? OK, I will concede that the batter or breadcrumbs coating the mushrooms, with a whisper of garlic, might conceivably be crunchy. In the context, I would have expected the all-purpose infantile word, crispy. Croque-monsieur, the French sandwich of Gruyère cheese and ham in thin white bread, with the crust cut off, dipped in egg and fried, was translated as "crispy gentleman" in a women's mag the other day. Whence and wherefore this crispiness? I think we should be told.

It is in fact an older word in the English lexicon than you would have supposed. It has been with us since the 14th century, meaning curly or wavy, of the hair, a direct Englishing of the Latin *crispus*. For example, here is John of Trevisa from Cornwall, fellow of Exeter and the Queen's College, Oxford, who was sent down for unspecified "unworthiness", I suppose idle spelling: "By grete heete the heer of the berd and of the heed ben crispy and curlyd." Three centuries later, a secondary meaning of brittle or "short" in a pastrycook's jargon came in: "The crispy mammocks that remain of fried hogs greese." I suspect that these were the original pork scratchings, revolting tooth-filling-breakers. And there the word crispy remained until the arrival of Chinese restaurants over the land, after the last war. They also serve, who only stand and wait, even up in darkest Ayrshire, dishing out the carry-oots of chow mein, sweet and sour pork, and crispy noodles, and watching the Scotch mist drenching in from Goat Fell, with the stoical resignation of the Roman legionaries 20 centuries before them. Hellhole and pits of the universe, no doubt; but at least the noodles are crispy. And that, I suspect, is how crispy came into the revolting and embarrassing jargon of foodspeak.

I do not know what we can do about it. Very few people write well about food. Brillat-Savarin, maybe. Elizabeth David, certainly. I confess to a taste for Jonathan Meades, because he tends to slag off unsatisfactory restaurants with a windy rhetoric that other men reserve for more important matters. Let us stick to plain cooking, and avoid poetry, when forced to write or read about food. As Miss Piggy said on artichokes: "These things are just plain annoying. After all the trouble you go to, you get about as much actual food out of eating an artichoke as you would from licking 30 or 40 postage stamps. Have the shrimp and avocado cocktail instead." And for Falstaff's sake, don't describe it as crispy.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Once upon a time, when Fleet Street was a metonym, I drove to it every working day. Which meant that every working day — since the route from Cricklewood to solvency required me to turn from Holborn into New Fetter Lane — I spent some time at the Holborn Circus traffic lights, looking up at the buttocks of Prince Albert's horse.

Quite why this singularly unregal spot should have been chosen for the great consort's memorial I have never known (though no circus, of course, is complete without an equestrian German), but what I have always known, as the result of all this right-hand-filtering, is his dates. Because chiselled on the big granite oblong thing beneath — let us, since it is the cracker season, call it Plinth Albert — are the numbers 1819-1861.

Only 42. How came it, I would daily muse, that a fellow so sturdy and energetic (nine children and a major exhibition) should so feebly have succumbed to an exhalation from the Windsor drains? And only now am I convinced I have the clue: the clue lies in that selfsame cracker season, and the conviction lies in the conviction I risked on Wednesday for driving without due care and attention, to wit, having a dangerously uncontrollable passenger in the seat beside me.

But for Prince Albert, that passenger would have been in Norway. Albert's consuming ambition, as you know, was so to commend himself to the English that they would adopt him as their own. Not content to enjoy the unbridled passion merely of England's top banana, he sought also the adoration of her subjects. It was to this end that he imported the Christmas tree: so that, every year, the English could dance around it, breathing in its salutary needle-waft, exclaiming at its twinkling lights, clapping their hands at each spinning glass ball, cheering the topping-out of the fairy, and generally praising the name of the great benefactor.

But things did not work out that way. Instead, every year from 1841 onwards, the English stared glumly at it, wondering why its needles fell out as soon as they brought it indoors, cursing its lights for stopping twinkling the instant they stepped back to admire them, bandaging their hands at each shattered glass ball, swearing at one another for not remembering where they put the fairy last year, and generally calumniating the name of the great malefactor. Clearly, after 20 years of this, Albert's annually deepening disillusion had brought him to such a low ebb that, when the offending manhole cover was lifted, he no longer had the wherewithal to resist its miasma.

Now, until Wednesday, I had thought I had taken everything a Christmas tree could throw at me. I had believed, in short, that Prince Albert had no nasty surprises left. This was because I had never before bought a 10ft Norwegian pine at Camden Market. Too long to sit in the back seat with its head out of the window, it demanded that I put the hood down so that it could sit in front with the driver. For a time, all went well; if you ignored the hue, it was not unlike whizzing along with Isadora Duncan beside you, a big feathery thing, her tresses blowing in the slipstream, her aeolian susurrations fetchingly redolent of a wanton's murmured promises, and, the evening being crisp but not chill, I was much enjoying this, until Isadora's stays burst.

Which is to say that, on Haverstock Hill, the string restraining her limbs suddenly snapped, and, as if unable any longer to contain her vegetable lust, Isadora was all over me; so that, not merely lashed and stingingly needled, I found I could see forwards only by leaning sideways. Nevertheless, I managed; until the Panda flagged me down.

They were very good about not being in proper control of a vehicle. It was, after all, Christmas. They even had string. They rebound the tree. Only then did they notice the absence of a tax disc. We all looked at the space where it had been before, almost certainly, Isadora's outflung limb had defenestrated it. Sorry, they said, nothing we can do. Produce your documents within seven days. It's no good blaming the tree.

It's not the tree I blame, I said.

Mary Dejevsky on the dark shadow cast on Soviet reform by Shevardnadze's resignation

A grave warning to Gorbachev

When was the last time a Soviet foreign minister's resignation caused the stock markets to fall worldwide? When, indeed, was the last time that a Soviet foreign minister resigned without being pushed? That Eduard Shevardnadze yesterday accomplished both testifies to the transformation of Soviet foreign policy during his tenure at the foreign ministry and of Soviet domestic politics since Mikhail Gorbachev came to power.

Mr Shevardnadze was always a Soviet foreign minister of a different stamp. That was his virtue; it was also the reason, at the last, for his resignation in a Soviet Union which has not changed as fast or as substantially as its foreign policy.

There should have been little surprise at the fact of his resignation. Mr Gorbachev's Nobel peace prize seemed a fitting conclusion to the revolution in Soviet foreign policy over which he had presided. There was a sense in which his work was done.

Mr Shevardnadze, at Mr Gorbachev's behest, brought the Soviet troops out of Afghanistan. He disengaged the Soviet Union from expensive regional conficts. He presided over the effective liberation of Eastern Europe and gave his blessing to the unification of Germany. As his last contribution to ending the cold war, he joined the Soviet leadership in Western condemnation of Iraq, so eliminating more than four decades of discord at the UN.

Mr Shevardnadze accompanied these moves with a personal charm and conviction quite unlike the cool detachment of his predecessor, Andrei Gromyko. His genial smile and grandfatherly visage became the new face of the Soviet Union abroad. He had the grace to admit domination of Eastern Europe required an apology. Elegantly, he wished the united German people well as he signed away Soviet rights under the Four-Power Agreement.

While the fact of Mr Shevardnadze's departure was timely and of a piece with projected changes at the apex of Soviet power, the manner of his leaving was not. Mr Shevardnadze deliberately chose the most public of forums to announce his resignation. His departure, as Mr Gorbachev understood, was for the Soviet public and for the world. It was eloquent warning of danger ahead.

Mr Gorbachev's angry outburst at the foreign minister who had, in his view, deserted him in his hour of need ended an alliance which brought the Soviet Union untold benefits abroad. It also benefited the president personally. Only last month he told a meeting of cultural figures how he and Mr Shevardnadze had plotted the course of the new Soviet Union before either had attained supreme power.

His account of how they had vouchsafed to each other the need for radical change, at a time when there were risks in articulating such thoughts at all, seemed intended to prepare the Soviet public for a time when they would lead the country as president and vice-president. Mr Shevardnadze had also been mentioned as a possible prime minister.

But his mooted candidacy for promotion was sufficient for the enemies of change to target him as their victim. Moscow's support for Washington against Iraq was the pretext. Sections of the military and Soviet opinion had been shocked that Moscow had deserted an old and loyal ally. They complained in private that the Soviet Union would in future be excluded from the Middle East, that Moscow was now a handmaiden of Washington.

These complaints were only a code, however, for the accumulated objections to the whole of Gorbachev's policy. The blame for "losing" Eastern Europe, for abandoning the Third World and quitting the "ideological struggle" were heaped at Mr Shevardnadze's door. So was the blame for "weakening Soviet defences" and "loosening up" Soviet society to the point where it might emulate Eastern Europe and set out for a non-communist future.

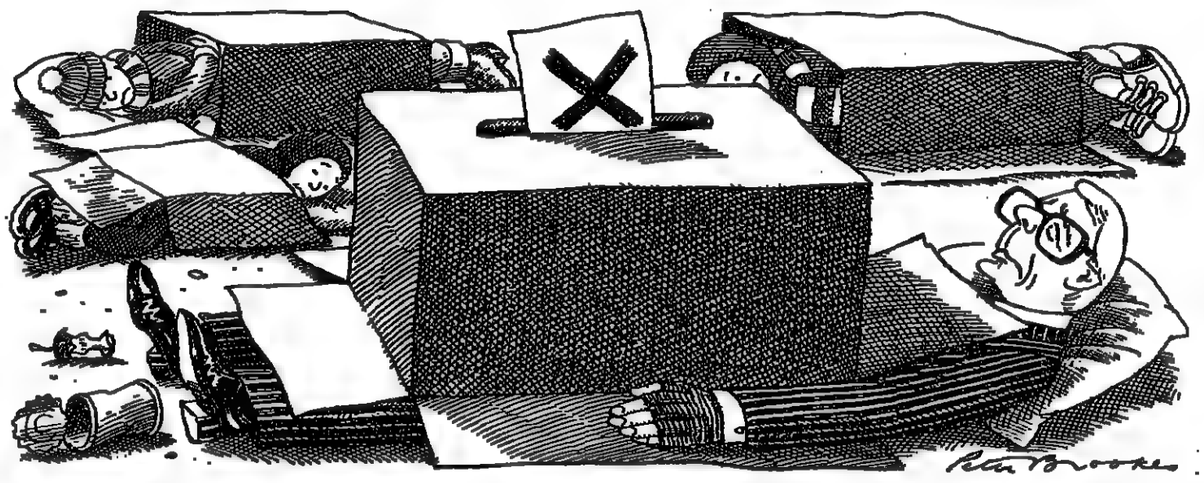
In the face of this unremitting campaign against him — and against perestroika — Mr Shevardnadze conceded defeat. Implicitly, he also blamed Mr Gorbachev for not rebuffing the charges.

This is not the first time that the president has failed to support a close ally; nor is it the first time he has been angered by what he sees as disloyalty in a colleague. Three years ago, he abandoned Boris Yeltsin, his personal appointee as Communist party leader in Moscow, when the going against entrenched interests became too rough. Last month he dropped his interior minister, Vadim Bakatin, when he was blamed for declining social discipline.

Each time Mr Gorbachev has acted, as he sees it, in the interests of maintaining consensus and keeping the country united behind change. Each time, however, his leadership has been divided and weakened. With the loss of Mr Shevardnadze it will be more divided and damaged than before.

Mr Shevardnadze's departure has implications that reach beyond the strength and survival of Mr Gorbachev and extend to the new East-West stability. Mr Gorbachev may have vouched for Soviet credit-worthiness in the West, but it was Shevardnadze who symbolised Soviet openness to the world, Shevardnadze who underwrote the liberation of Eastern Europe and Shevardnadze who stood beside James Baker and condemned Iraq. His departure leaves the world, as well as the Soviet Union, without certainty and the stockmarkets should not be alone in their worries.

Is ERM the spectre that will haunt Major out of power?



Anatol Kaletsky, Economics Editor, on the self-imposed limitation acting against an early economic upturn

Hoist with his own petard could be the political epitaph for John Major, if one is needed after the next general election. With the economy sliding into a deep recession, his Chancellor, Norman Lamont, has postponed a cut in interest rates that the City had confidently expected before Christmas. The cut would have been amply justified by all the usual economic indicators such as inflation, production, employment and domestic money supply. But having convinced Mrs Thatcher to join the European exchange-rate mechanism in October, probably against her better judgment, Mr Major and Mr Lamont now find that their hands are tied.

From now on, British interest rates have to be set not to stabilise the economy, but to soothe sentiment among foreign exchange traders and to settle old scores over the costs of German unification between the Bundesbank and the Bonn government.

Mr Lamont has also boxed himself in on fiscal policy, ruling out any "artificial" stimulus for the economy through tax cuts or higher public spending. And even if he is not taken at his pugnacious word on this point, the ERM constraint could turn a "generous" Budget in April into a mirage as surely as it did this month's cut in interest rate. Experience in France, Italy and other ERM member countries suggests that currency markets are almost as inclined to punish generous budgets as "premature" cuts in interest rates.

Two questions follow. Will the economy recover spontaneously, without special help from government policy? And, if so, will the recovery come soon enough to win the Conservatives the next general election?

For a government facing an 18-month election deadline, timing is of the essence, and the prospects are not good. It is increasingly accepted in the Conservative party that the next election will have to take place in, or soon after, a recession. Even if production has turned up by the middle of next year, unemployment normally lags nine to 12 months behind, and will probably still be rising well into 1992. The question is therefore whether the government can win an election with unemployment between 2 and 2.5 million and rising.

Conservative strategists take some comfort from the 1983 election. Although it was held two years after the "end" of the 1979-81 recession, as technically defined by economists, the depth of that slump had been such that unemployment was still rising rapidly: the first headlines about "three million unemployed" were seen just months before the election. The government was re-elected with a landslide. The magnitude of victory could be explained largely by the Falklands factor and the disarray of the opposition parties. But the fact remains that the government's standing in the opinion polls was already improving in early 1982, before anyone had ever heard of General Galtieri, and at a time when few people believed that economic recovery was in store.

Partly because of the way the government sailed through the 1982 unemployment crisis, many political analysts have come to the conclusion that interest rates and inflation are much more important in determining electoral support. However, statistical tests give ambiguous evidence. Models which combine the rate of change of unemployment with other variables such as inflation, interest rates and disposable income seem to give the best predictive results.

But all such models beg the most crucial questions. This will be the second episode of mass unemployment under the Tory government. The slump of the 1980s was seen as the penalty the country had to pay for the social chaos and political mismanagement of the 1970s. Will the public be as forgiving of the government the second time round? In the early 1980s, the three million unemployed were concentrated in the depressed industrial regions, which had always been Labour strongholds. In the Tory heartlands of the South East, the South West and East Anglia, unemployment never exceeded 9 per cent, compared with 13.5 per cent in the North. Will the Conservatives lose more votes now that the slump is hitting their supporters?

Such questions can be answered only with hindsight. But what can be said for certain is that, unless the economy starts to recover soon, the year ahead for the government will be one of extreme political risks.

The Chancellor, backed by his Treasury officials, believes that the slump will end "automatically" around the spring of next year, even without an abrupt easing of monetary or fiscal policy. If they based their belief on the traditional stabilisers like stockbuilding and housing investment, they would almost certainly be disappointed. Neither of these is likely to prove strong enough for many months ahead to overcome the powerful deflationary forces acting on today's economy: the unprecedented levels of debt; the record bankruptcies and business failures; the difficulties imposed by the high exchange rate on exporters; the deteriorating conditions in overseas economies, above all in America.

The government does have another factor working to its advantage, although it is not one of which it wishes to boast. The high level of pay settlements in the present round, accompanied by the steep fall of inflation certain next year, should guarantee large increases in real income for the majority of workers who do not lose their jobs. By the middle of next year, if average wages are still growing by 10 per cent or so and price inflation is down to 6 per cent, consumer spending could start reviving smartly. Because consumer spending accounts for 79 per cent of gross domestic product, even the modest growth of 2 per cent annually predicted by the Treasury in its autumn forecast might be enough to mitigate the slump by the middle of next year.

Ironically, therefore, the failure of the government's exhortations to restrain wages could offer the best hope for a recovery from recession in the short run. But this would be a hope fraught with dangers. Given the unexpected speed with which unemployment is rising, it is by no means certain that higher wages for people in work will compensate, in the aggregate, for income losses suffered by the jobless. More seriously in the long run, rising real wages would exacerbate the competitive problems faced by British industry as a result of the high exchange rate. On top of this, growing consumer spending would suck in imports, aggravating the country's balance of payments problems and undermining confidence in the pound.

If this is the kind of recovery the government is banking on, it may have to defend sterling with a sharp rise in interest rates just before the next general election. Wherever he looks, Mr Major will see the ERM.

THE TIMES DIARY

Russia hangs on by its toggles

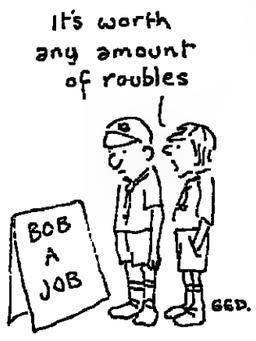
What reconciling, guiding spirit can come to the rescue of the Soviet Union and save it from disintegration? With Lenin in ideological limbo, Stalin in outer darkness, and a return by the tsars looking improbable (so far), step forward the spirit of Sir Robert Baden-Powell. As the empire falls apart, the founder of scouting and hero of Mafeking is emerging as the unlikely role model of Soviet youth.

Until glasnost made it freely available three years ago, B-P's *Scouting for Boys* was near the top of the list of subversive literature. As recently as the Seventies a Soviet encyclopaedia defined scouting as a movement seeking "to move the younger generation away from taking part in the fight for revolutionary and democratic transformations".

Now, it seems, everyone wants to claim for his own the Baden-Powell ethos of duty to one's country and helping old ladies across the *ulitsa*. Vyacheslav Chernikh, a scout leader from the Volga valley, says: "Everywhere you turn you hear the word scout. I already have nightmares about some retired major ordering a scout troop into formation with the traditional drill, *up! down!*"

Among those moving in, Chernikh says, are the discredited apparatchiks of the Komsomol Youth League and the Pioneers. Pamyat, the ultra-nationalist group that blames Russia's problems on Jews and foreigners, is looking at scouting as a model for its youth detachment, and the military auxiliary responsible for training schoolchildren has been reading its Baden-Powell handbook as well.

Ninety leaders of competing wings of the emerging scouting movement met in Moscow recently to try to create a single national organisation, under the watchful eye of Jacques Morcillon, director of the Geneva-based World Organisation of the Scout Movement. The attempt was less than successful and the deadline for a decision has been set for the next world scouting conference in Bangkok in 1993. But will there be a Soviet Union left by then?



Ingham on record

Having toasted his own health at his Croydon home last night the newly knighted Bernard Ingham will this morning start serious work on his memoirs. The former Downing Street spokesman has promised to deliver the manuscript within the next six months to his publishers, Harper Collins. "I haven't started work on it yet," confessed Sir Bernard. "I haven't kept any diaries. I haven't done any research. It's all in my head."

The book can be expected to settle a few old scores, as the unattributable sources finally go on the record: it is ominously titled *Kill the Messenger*. "Lots of people have shot at me over the years," he growls, adding uncharacteristically: "You can quote me on that."

Awaiting orders

The latest recipient of the Order of Merit may have a long wait before she meets fellow members of the club. Mrs Thatcher will not have an opportunity to meet the other 23 wearers of the blue and crimson ribbon until they next assemble for lunch at Buckingham Palace, which is unlikely to happen for another two years.

Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, honoured with the Order in 1981 says: "The lunches are held every three years and I was at the last one a year ago. We have no formal duties and don't all meet at any other time."

At the next lunch, probably in 1992, Mrs Thatcher will have a chance to swap stories with the likes of Lord Zuckerman, Sir Michael Tippett and Graham Greene. But she should be warned that her fellow OM wearers are a clannish lot. "I still feel a very junior member of the order," says Cheshire. "Most of them are very intellectual, and I'm not. We don't talk to each other all the time. It is not that sort of club."

Stews at ten

The resignation of Eduard Shevardnadze could not have come at a worse time for ITN. The newsroom was making the final move to its new headquarters in Gray's Inn Road and only half the staff remained at the old West End headquarters in Wells Street to broadcast the last *News at Ten* to go out from there. "It was certainly inconvenient," said chairman Sir David Nicholas, who has been overseeing the transfer. "But it could have been worse: war might have broken out in the Gulf."

Sitting on the floor of his bare new office, Nicholas was a touch nostalgic for the old studio. "We moved in the day after British troops marched into Londonderry in 1969. Journalism is the first draft of history and I wish we had kept more material from those days to start a museum." While packing, Nicholas did discover one archive treasure: ITN's old assignment records. "They are in huge old volumes like bank ledgers, with the assignment editor's instructions written in pencil. They show where everybody was sent each day, including such cub reporters as Reggie Bosanquet and Gerald Seymour." Nicholas was too overwhelmed to organise a farewell party last night but there was at least something to celebrate in associate editor Dame Sue Tinson's appearance in the resignation honours list.

● *Football crowds can be so cruel. Only hours after the Arsenal and England footballer Tony Adams was sent to prison for reckless driving, terraces around the country were ringing to chants about him. One wag at Brighton's Goldstone ground had composed an entire hymn of footballing abuse, sung to the tune of Bread of Heaven, each verse ending with the rousing chorus: "What's it like to kick a ball and chain?"*

Tying squad

Ronald Hadfield, chief constable of the West Midlands, has complained to the Birmingham Law Society about a tie being worn by some solicitors in the city that mocks the emblem of the force's disbanded serious crime squad.

Members of the squad, which is under investigation for allegedly fabricating evidence, had their own tie with a swooping eagle as an emblem and the squad's initials, SCS, beneath. The tie being worn by some solicitors in the Birmingham law courts shows the same swooping eagle, but with its body pierced by a golden arrow. Underneath are the initials SLS. A police officer who asked about these initials was told they stand for "Serious Lying Squad". The Birmingham Law Society has now replied to Hadfield deploring the matter but legal wags claim there is a more innocent interpretation of the initials SLS. They insist it stands for "Serious Lawyer Squad".

THE TIMES

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ON GUARD IN WASHINGTON

Six months ago, the first visit of a new British prime minister to Washington might have been a reasonably relaxed, get-to-know-you affair. Not this week's début by John Major. No British politician has had sharper incentives to ensure the Anglo-American special relationship is cemented firmly in place. Yesterday's resignation by the Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, predicting a return to Soviet dictatorship, will bring strategic deterrence sharply back up an agenda charged enough with Gatt and the Gulf.

Rescuing the Gatt is urgent. Peace is indissociable from economic stability. Trade wars loom unless a deal is found on agriculture to unblock the talks on trade liberalisation under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Mr Major needs to find a formula which does more than disguise a breakdown. That would be hard enough even if he and President Bush were free to give trade their undivided attention. They are not.

Mr Shevardnadze's resignation has sent reverberations across Europe and the Gulf. His departure is no fall of a sparrow. This man was the anchor of superpower co-operation over Iraq, East-West arms reductions and the defusing of regional conflicts from Angola to Afghanistan. Without his unprecedented co-operation with the American secretary of state, James Baker, the United Nations would never have swung so firmly against Iraqi aggression in the Gulf.

Rightly or wrongly President Saddam Hussein, who greeted the fall of Margaret Thatcher as a personal triumph, will expect Soviet policy to revert to well-worn pro-Iraqi channels, weakening the international coalition. No display of Anglo-American firmness can fully bridge the gap thus opened, less than a month before the UN deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. What firmness can do is to convince Saddam that, whatever the Soviet policy, Iraq is still headed towards a devastating defeat unless it withdraws.

In Europe, Mr Shevardnadze's trusted word has outweighed allied misgivings about apparent circumventions by the Soviet military of important provisions of the recently-signed treaty reducing conventional arms in Europe (CFE). His departure will jangle nerves in Nato and compel a reassessment of the motives behind the Soviet military's largescale transfers of Soviet weapons east of the Urals, and the recent shift, without the knowledge of the Soviet foreign ministry, of 40,000 Soviet troops and their *matériel* from the army, covered by CFE, to the navy, which is not.

This new uncertainty is a timely warning against dismissing Britain's independent nuclear deterrent as obsolete. At home, Saddam has temporarily blighted opposition from CND, and vocal claimants on an early "peace dividend", to the modernisation of Britain's deterrent with Trident II missiles. But the doubts cast this week on Trident II's operational safety by scientists reporting to the US House of Representatives will reignite demands to scrap the contract.

Their report criticises the propellant which powers the missile, the explosive materials around the warhead, and the lack of a shield to protect the warhead cone from fire. All make Trident vulnerable to accidental detonation, with attendant risks of a dispersal of plutonium dust or even, in the chilling understatement of science, "a nuclear yield".

The defects can be eliminated by modification. They do not justify scrapping Trident II; nor does fashionable optimism about the advent of a peace-loving stable democracy in the Soviet Union. Nor can Britain ignore the threat from Saddam or other potential nuclear powers, and the need to retain the capacity to deter them. For Mr Major now even to hint at abandoning Britain's deterrent — which would lose all credibility without the Trident modernisation — would be geopolitical folly. That would weaken collective security and bolster objections by American isolationists to defending Europeans unwilling to defend themselves. He should concentrate on the product, extracting guarantees from Mr Bush this week that Trident II will be modified as the scientists recommend.

PORNOGRAPHY AND PREJUDICE

No sooner had the Home Office published its report challenging the assumed link between pornography and sex crime yesterday than the home secretary, Kenneth Baker, ambushed it. Distancing himself from what he called the report's "curiously inconclusive" conclusions, Mr Baker declared that pornography had an "insidious and dehumanising effect" which "degrades" all who had contact with it. Sex criminals are hardly popular, and Tory home secretaries cannot be expected to sound sympathetic to them or their tastes. Even so this was a cavalier way to treat a piece of academic research commissioned by the government itself.

Pornography is certainly read by sex offenders. Often the material is repulsive to anybody reasonably normal. What is still lacking, as the report makes clear, is firm evidence of any causal link between the reading and the crime. Equally lacking is evidence for the theory that pornography can reduce sexual crime by supplying what are euphemistically known as "alternative outlets". Pornography emerges as neutral.

The case for criminalising pornography, therefore, must rest on other grounds. Pornography involving children, for instance, must be suppressed because its production involves actual child abuse, not because of the doubtful hypothesis that reading it might encourage further child abuse. Mr Baker is unwise to rely, in the face of this report to the contrary, on popular prejudice. It is not self-evident that a pornographic novel, say, is more likely to lead a normal reader to sex crime than a detective thriller may lead him to murder or a spy story to treason.

Pressure to ban pornography is a reaction to a form of crime which creates fear in and for the most vulnerable members of society, women and children. The concern is largely a displaced anxiety arising from the failure of the penal system to tackle the correction of sex offenders more successfully. British prisons, with their suppression of human dignity and long periods of isolation, are among the least likely places to encourage reform. While it is inevitable that society's repugnance at a vicious sex attack should result in a severe sentence, no justice has been done to the victim if the culprit eventually emerges more likely to repeat the offence.

The Home Office is beginning to see the bankruptcy of a purely punishment-based approach to sex offences, satisfying only the public appetite for vengeance. Treating people inhumanely leads them to treat others that way. Grendon jail, Buckinghamshire, is an oasis of enlightenment where sex offenders are treated as reformable and the regime takes that as its priority. There should be more such places. The new concept of "inmate programmes" in the rest of the prison service has much to offer these offenders, who can be helped, so the Home Office increasing believes, to master their tendencies by therapy.

The government is considering amendments to the criminal justice bill, now before parliament, which would take this more enlightened approach beyond the prison gate after the prisoner is allowed to return to society. A sex offender released before the completion of his full term would receive sustained supervision allied to continuing treatment, as a condition of his freedom.

Unfortunately the Home Office usually feels it has to present such enlightened reforms as proof it is "getting tough" and "cracking down". Sooner or later Mr Baker and his departmental ministers must break the spell which holds public opinion captive to this simplistic "hanging is too good for them" approach to crime, particularly sex crime. In his brisk dismissal of yesterday's Home Office report Mr Baker was merely pandering to it.

LONDON GOES POST-MODERN

The Sainsbury extension to the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square has emerged from its scaffolding, giving London a first sight of its latest "post-modern" monument. Designed by the American architect, Robert Venturi, the extension turns the corner of the square with a pseudo-Mannerist joke. The classical columns of Wilkins' National Gallery are continued round the angle, culminating in a whimsical reproduction of part of Nelson's Column, fixed to the façade. The effect is humorous and light-hearted, a welcome addition to the city.

The Venturi building should mark the start of a dramatic change in London architecture, away from the international styles associated with le Corbusier and Mies van der Rohe and typified by the Barbican, Birmingham's Bull Ring and the Lloyds building. Three of the biggest developments planned for the capital have seen "post-modern" classicists triumph over followers of Modernism. At Spitalfields, Paternoster Square and London Bridge City architects are struggling to create neo-Georgian townscapes which take their cue from the traditional British street and square.

At Spitalfields, a battle continues over the replacement of an old market district, either with high-density commercial towers and blocks or with a plan more sensitive to the existing visual character of the area. Plans by the neo-classical architect, Leon Krier, had been rejected in favour of those by the president-elect of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Richard MacCormack, who was in turn supplanted by an American firm. Local opposition has threatened the scheme with a public enquiry, leading the developers to backtrack and invite plans from the post-modern architect, Terry Farrell, for a Georgian layout, perhaps again involving Mr MacCormack. The character of one of London's most atmospheric inner districts is at stake.

Paternoster Square is even more exciting. Here, an ugly postwar deck development just north of St Paul's Cathedral has already been declared obsolete. Its replacement was disputed between a high-density Modernist design by Arup Associates and a restrained plan by the classical architect, John Simpson. Although Arups won the first round, public enthusiasm for a revival of traditional London streetscape on this supremely sensitive site led to a second-round victory for the classicists. A master plan is to be launched in February supervised by three leading post-modernists.

The same Mr Simpson emerged as the first-round winner of a very different challenge, to design a complete river-front next to Tower Bridge on the south bank of the Thames opposite the City of London. Here, Mr Simpson's Venetian piazza defeated a Gothic imitation of the Palace of Westminster by the American architect, Philip Johnson, and a Modernist block by the firm of Twigg Brown. Sadly the site is owned by a Kuwaiti company and delays in the planning process — chiefly within the environment department — led to the development falling foul of world events.

Yet the present recession in the property industry could be good news for each of these schemes. The wide trading floors and high-density corporate blocks demanded by the property market in the late 1980s are now out of date. A recent survey of London commercial rents showed the fastest rising values were in the West End, where the original Georgian layout of streets and squares, protected by conservation area status, is more appealing to commercial tenants. Company chiefs can decentralise labour-intensive clerical work to suburban and regional centres. For the modern property business, the biggest returns are on buildings that most closely reflect London's traditional character.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Industrial vision to be feared

From Mr David Blunkett, MP for Sheffield Brightside (Labour)

Sir, Michael Spicer (December 18) and Nicholas Ridley (report, December 19) are not members of the House of Commons with whom I would normally agree. However, on the question of interest rates their comments are both timely and extremely relevant.

In my own area of the country (built on craftsmanship and skill) the situation is reaching desperation point.

Back in 1981 we went through the biggest trauma that manufacturing industry in this country has ever faced. Consequent on that particular "shake-out" many hundreds of thousands of jobs were lost in the region of the country which I represent and we now face the frightening prospect of a repetition of those events but without the capacity to be able to withstand such an earthquake.

It is essential that action is taken now if we are to retain any semblance of employment in key sectors of our manufacturing economy which would be vital for our future economic prosperity. The human cost is enormous. Men are currently being laid off for several weeks over Christmas in the Sheffield area, with no definite prospect of a return to work in January. These are skilled men who have given their lives in industries on which our economy has depended and upon which wealth creation is still dependent.

It is now time to act rather than to atrophy in the face of what could be a disaster which will only be recognised as such long after the event has damaged our future prospects for many years to come. The advent of the single European market makes action now even more vital if we are not to find ourselves on the fringe of a Europe totally dominated by the industrial might of our key industrial competitors.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BLUNKETT,
House of Commons.
December 19.

BBC under scrutiny

From the Managing Director of the BBC World Service

Sir, May I set the record straight about the National Audit Office investigation of value for money at BBC World Service (Diary, December 13). The NAO have just finished a preliminary study with our full co-operation and they will be coming in to carry out their survey in January.

While the Comptroller and Auditor-General, John Bourn, visited Bush House last summer at my invitation and I showed him round, he would be surprised to learn that he is sitting in at our daily editorial meetings. I have no fears that World Service editorial independence will be compromised by the NAO enquiry, nor am I angry about it as John Bourn personally knows.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN TUSA,
Managing Director,
BBC World Service,
Bush House, Strand, WC2.
December 14.

Pet larceny

From Mrs Deborah Jonas

Sir, Further to your labrador tales in "'Twas the night before Christmas" (Life and Times, December 10), we have suffered major pre-Christmas four-legged larceny on two separate occasions.

First, threequarters of an almond-iced Christmas cake was the prize after a mountaineering expedition to the top of the piano. Secondly, an entire cold cooked Christmas pudding (awaiting final steaming on the day) destined for 16 people was stolen from a worktop. The labrador concerned *did* suffer considerably, but not from remorse.

Yours carefully,
DEBORAH JONAS,
Corner Cottage, 49 Waverley Lane,
Farnham, Surrey.

Mosley's movement

From Mr Jeffrey Hamm

Sir, The policies of Sir Oswald Mosley's Union Movement (Bernard Levin, November 29) contained nothing remotely resembling anti-semitism or colour prejudice.

Those policies contained no reference to Jews. They opposed the policies of unrestricted immigration which all the major political parties were then advocating.

Yours faithfully,
JEFFREY HAMM (Secretary),
Action Society,
Nash House,
Fishponds Road, SW17.

Iraqi Kurds' plight in Turkish camps

From Lord Hylton

Sir, In 1988 Kurds living in northern Iraq fled from Saddam Hussein's army across the frontier into Turkey. They were grateful when the Turks accepted them as "guests".

Today some 27,000 men, women and children still live in three camps in remote south-east Turkey. Their courageous spokesman, Mr Akram Mayi, has received a major human-rights award from the Reebok Foundation in the USA. Last week in London he explained the problems of the refugees.

Their tents are worn out after two years of exposure to extremes of heat and cold. The adults are not allowed to work and the children have no education. The status and future of both is unknown.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has made plans for permanent rehousing, but his and other humanitarian representatives have no access to the camps. It cannot be right to deny these refugees both self-help and assistance from outside. They are victims of Iraqi military power, just as much as Kuwaiti citizens and the expatriates who worked among them.

The whole world respects the way in which Turkey has helped to impose sanctions on Iraq. I trust that Turkey will join all who love freedom and human rights in alleviating the plight of these refugees and in working for their long-term resettlement.

Yours faithfully,
HYLTON,
House of Lords.
December 17.

Human cost of a Gulf conflict

From Sir David Crouch

Sir, Notwithstanding Sir Yehudi Menuhin's reminder of the need to recognise human rights as well as national boundaries as the justification for international action (December 17), it remains a tragedy that in the nuclear age we still feel obliged to resort to war when diplomacy fails.

What protection for human beings is it to launch a massive modern war with the certain prospect of tens of thousands killed and wounded, soldiers and civilians, women and children?

It is not enough to plead that it is all the fault of Saddam Hussein. The Western powers bear a heavy responsibility for allowing the crisis to occur in the first place. They should have at least had an idea that the Iraqis had their eyes on Kuwait and warned them of the consequences of any violation of its borders.

To have failed so dismally diplomatically is no excuse for throwing our hand in now and saying that war is justified.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CROUCH,
The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1.
December 17.

From Mr Osman Streater

Sir, Is it too much to hope, or ask, that on this particular December 25 the Saudi *mutawwa* religious police will refrain from their usual practice of breaking up family gatherings of "Nazarenes" in hotel restaurants in Jiddah, who look as if they might be committing the offence of celebrating Christmas?

Yours faithfully,
OSMAN STREATER,
Saville Club, 69 Brook Street, W1.

From Trooper D. Webb

Sir, I was reading through your letters to the editor (December 7) about trying experiences, when it occurred to me that for once I may have something to say.

I have now been in the Saudi Arabian desert for seven weeks, and however hard I or the rest of the squadron try to make a meal the chances are there will be half the desert in it. I now feel in need of a new set of teeth.

Although sand in one's food is a minor problem, sand in your sleeping bag is something totally different, and not recommended.

Yours faithfully,
D. WEBB,
D Squadron,
The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars,
Operation Granby,
BFPO 644.
December 11.

From Mr D. W. Blandford

Sir, Among interesting anniversaries in 1991 — June 1, 1941, British troops occupy Baghdad.

Yours,
D. W. BLANDFORD,
Trinity School, Shirley Park,
Croydon, Surrey.
December 13.

Aid for Soviet Union

From Mr Chris Skillen

Sir, Mary Dejevsky (article, December 10) may be right to warn of the dangers of pumping food into the wrong hands in the USSR, but it would be wrong to suggest that starvation has not become a fact of Soviet life. Not in privileged Moscow, of course, but in parts of Siberia, the far north and the far east the situation is critical. Above all in Soviet Central Asia, deaths from starvation have been a reality for some time.

Moskowskie novosti published a photograph of a four-year-old Turkmen boy just before he died from starvation. His wasted limbs, shrunken stomach, protruding ribs and hollow eyes are images of a terrible hunger. This was not a relic from the Soviet famines in the 1920s, 1930s or 1940s: the picture was taken in April. Muscovites have full cupboards should not blind us to the very real crisis in the country as a whole.

Food aid is not being sent unthinkingly. It is based on the considered judgment that substantive reform would be less likely were Gorbachev to fall before unrest stemming from hunger. Cynical it may be, naive it is not. The brink upon which the Soviet Union stands is not a promised land of free markets, but the abyss of collapse and a military takeover.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS SKILLEN,
University of Glasgow,
Institute of Soviet and East European Studies,
29 Bute Gardens, Glasgow.
December 11.

New runway

From the Chairman of the Airports Policy Consortium

Sir, I was disappointed by the speech given by the chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority in Brighton (report, December 5).

Sir Christopher Tugendhat argued that the decision on the location of a new runway in the South-east must be made soon. He claimed that any delay "will simply play into the hands of those who oppose airport development for environmental and other reasons unrelated to the health of the aviation economy".

Yet in its advice (report no 548, January 1989) to the Secretary of State for Transport, the CAA said "the argument that the interests of British civil aviation are so important to the country as to override most, if not all, environmental objections is not sustainable in a modern society".

Furthermore, in his covering letter accompanying the CAA's report no 570 (July 1990), Sir Christopher recognised "that there are political, environmental, social and other considerations" to be taken into account before a decision about a new runway can be made.

Is Sir Christopher unhappy with the establishment by the secretary of state of a working group of civil servants and interested parties which is to consider the very issues that, in report nos 548 and 570, the CAA recognised as so important?

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS ROBERTSON,
Chairman,
Airports Policy Consortium,
County Hall,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.

Vegetarian diet

From Dr Vernon Coleman

Sir, I was astonished to read Libby Purves claiming ("Life and Times", December 7) that a vegetarian diet is "a form of modified anorexia".

As a 14-stone, 6ft 3in-tall vegetarian I find this harder to stomach than a raw beefburger. A vegetarian diet contains all the essentials for healthy living.

Yours,
VERNON COLEMAN,
National Liberal Club,
Whitehall Place, SW1.
December 13.

Food for thought

From Mr G. B. de Wilton

Sir, On occasions we invite friends to join us at midday on Sundays for drinks, with which we hand round substantial "finger" eats, adequate to enable all to return home and not have to prepare or eat lunch.

We are always troubled as to how best to word invitations so as not to raise expectations too high yet signal sufficiency.

Yours faithfully,
G. B. de WILTON,
South Wootton House,
Butleigh Wootton,
Glastonbury, Somerset.

Twyford Down

From the Warden of Winchester College

Sir, On December 1 you published a letter from the Dean of Winchester and others about the proposed route of the M3 across Twyford Down. Since reference was made in that letter to Winchester College as owner of the down, I am writing to make the college's position clear.

The two masters who bought Twyford Down in 1922 and gave it to the college in 1955 were motivated not only by generosity towards to the school but also by a desire to preserve the land from development. So it seems were those Old Wykehamists who earlier gave St Catherine's Hill to the college.

Although neither of these benefactions was accompanied by any restrictive covenants, we respect the motives behind them and are deeply interested in the amenity of the area. Many years of debate have demonstrated that there is no route without damage, and the route now proposed appears on balance to be the least damaging of the alternatives.

We would be as delighted as your correspondents if the government were to change its mind and decide immediately to bear the additional cost of putting this section of the M3 through a tunnel rather than a cutting.

What we would not want to see however is a protracted debate and deferment of the project, since there is general agreement that an M3 link past Winchester is urgently needed and, as the government has said, the amenity gains of closing the existing bypass on the Winchester side of St Catherine's Hill would be an important offset to the losses of cutting through Twyford Down.

Yours etc.,
JEREMY MORSE,
Winchester College,
Winchester, Hampshire.

Better terms for racing

From the Chief Executive of the Jockey Club

Sir, In your third leader of December 17, "Racing's demons", you accuse the racing authorities of bleating to the government for special treatment. You also go on to say that actors, pop singers and novelists accept modest returns because of the riches that reward the successful few.

However, what you do not point out is that these professions depend on the willingness of governments and international bodies to legislate on copyright, the main source of income to their industries.

We, in common with other leisure industries, depend on outside controls to ensure that the money which we help generate within racing is fairly distributed so that the necessary investments and improvements can be made. We are not looking for government handouts but we are looking for conditions under which our sport can prosper to the benefit of all including the government.

We have been actively looking at all the various ways in which we can also help ourselves including the use of our copyrights and the role of the Tote, quite apart from the several hundred million pounds that the taxman takes out of the industry each year.

A successful outcome will require action from government and this is what we will be seeking in our presentations to the Treasury, the Home Affairs Select Committee and the All-Party Racing and Bloodstock Committee.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER HAINES,
Chief Executive,
The Jockey Club,
42 Portman Square, W1.
December 18.

Court closures

From Mrs Hilary I. Severn

Sir, Mrs Rose, the newly-elected chairman of the Magistrates' Association, states in her address (report, December 3) that she would continue the association's line to ensure that the service remains a local one.

How can this be upheld when in past months the closure of small courts seems to have been the order in force? In one small court in Avon 25 per cent of the bench resigned in protest at its closure and subsequent integration with an urban court.

This closure occurred after an appeal to the home secretary was dismissed, despite the backing of Avon County Council, North Avon District Council and all the parish councils within the petty sessional division of Thornbury. In an expanding area north of Bristol this closure seems a retrograde step and yet another nail in the coffin of the "local" community.

I hope that Mrs Rose in her new office will in the future help to prevent further closures of local courts.

Yours faithfully,
HILARY I. SEVERN,
49 Gloucester Road,
Rudgeway, Bristol, Avon.

Insider lunches

From Mr J. Strover

Sir, Sir Alan Walters ("Get Thatcher, and they did", December 5) highlighted the tradition of business lunches in the City attended by ministers, prime ministers and other leading figures of the political establishment. He suggested that the guests are often asked to discuss current policy by their hosts.

The Financial Services Act is designed to prevent, amongst other things, the abuse of "insider information". Can it be in order that those possessing this kind of information lunch in private at the tables of those who can benefit so much from it?

Yours faithfully,
J. STROVER,
11 Elm Grove,
Nayland, Colchester, Essex.

Subtitles for deaf

From Mr Frank Willatts

Sir, Mrs Susan Hopton's admiration for the BBC's subtitling of news programmes (December 3) is shared by most deaf viewers, but it ends there, with the news. The chances of deaf people being able to view other programmes is almost non-existent.

For example, on one day in December BBC1 had 3¾ hours of titles, and BBC2 just one hour and 20 minutes. ITV had 3½ hours and Channel Four 75 minutes. Thus, from a total of 78 hours of viewing time just eight hours were available to those whose viewing is reliant on captions. The deaf get a rough deal from television.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK WILLATTS,
15 Stony Path, Loughton, Essex.

Form of address

From Ms Vivien Allen

Sir, When does one stop addressing a grandson, now 14, as "Master" and write "Mr" instead?

Yours faithfully,
VIVIEN ALLEN,
8 Scarlett Road,
Castletown, Isle of Man.
December 12.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 20: The Right Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP, was received in audience by The Queen when Her Majesty invested her with the Insignia of a Member of the Order of Merit.

His Excellency Dr Virgilio Barco was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Colombia to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy:
Señora Ximena Andrade de Casalino (Minister Plenipotentiary), Colonel Francisco José Amador (Military, Naval and Air Attaché), Dr Nestor Osorio (Counsellor, Coffee Affairs), Señora Alba Zuluaga (First Secretary), and Señor Efrain Sánchez (Third Secretary).

Señora de Barco was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir Patrick Wright (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

His Excellency Mr Kazuo Chiba and Madame Chiba were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Japan to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency Mr Leif Leifland and Mrs Leifland were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plentipotentiary from Sweden to the Court of St James's.

The Queen was represented by Major General Sir John Swinton (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Berwickshire) at the Memorial Service for Lieutenant-Colonel Sir William Swan (formerly Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Berwickshire) which was held in Duns Parish Church this afternoon.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 20: The Prince of Wales received the Australian Schoolboys' Rugby Union team at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness received the Secretary of State for Transport (Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP) at St James's Palace.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, The London Symphony Chorus, attended a Christmas Music Concert at the Barbican Centre, EC2.

Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith and Squadron Leader David Barton RAF were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 20: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester and The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were represented by Dame Jean Maxwell-Scott at the Memorial Service for Lieutenant Colonel Sir William Swan which was held in Duns Parish Church this afternoon.

Today's royal engagement

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will visit The Queen's Flight at RAF Benson at 2.55 to mark the arrival of the third BAe 146 and the departure of the last Andover.

Birthdays today

Mr Alexander Bennett, former chairman, Whitbread Investment Company, 77; Mr F.G. Berkeley, Chief Taxing Master of the Supreme Court, 71; Air Commandant Dame Jean Bromet, former director, WRAF, 78; Mr B.E.S. Collins, former chairman, Nabisco Group, 67; Miss Joan Dickson, cellist, 69; Miss Chris Evert, tennis player, 36; Miss Jane Fonda, actress, 53; the Earl of Haddington, 49; Mr G.P. Hughes, tennis player, 88; Sir Frederick Lawton, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 79; Mr Geoff Lewis, racehorse trainer, 55; Mr W.M.M. Milligan, former principal, Wolsey Hall, Oxford, 83; the Most Rev John Murphy, former Archbishop of Cardiff, 85; Sir John Nabarro, consultant physician, 75; Mr Steve Perryman, footballer, 39; Mr Anthony Powell, CH, author, 85; Sir John Quinton, chairman, Barclays Bank, 61; Flight Lieutenant W. Reid, VC, agricultural consultant, 69; Mr T.L. Robinson, former president, DRG, 78; Brigadier V.M. Rooke, former director, Army Nursing Services, 66; Mr Walter Spanghero, rugby player, 47; Mr Greville Starkey, jockey, 51; Mr Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor, 46; Mr Peter Tinniswood, author, 54; Mr Jeremy Tree, former racehorse trainer, 65; Mr James Tye, director-general, British Safety Council, 69; Dr Kurt Waldheim, President of Austria, 72; Mr Carl Wilson, singer, 44.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Mathurin Régnier, poet, Chartres, France, 1573; Jean Racine, dramatist, La Ferté-Milon, 1639; Sir Joseph Whitworth Bt, mechanical engineer, Stockport, 1803; Benjamin Disraeli, 1st Earl of Beaconsfield, prime minister 1868, 1874-80, London, 1804; Joseph Stalin, general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, 1922-53, Gori, Georgia, 1879.
DEATHS: Giovanni Boccaccio, writer, Certaldo, Italy, 1375; James Parkinson, physician, London, 1924; F. Scott Fitzgerald, novelist, Hollywood, 1940; George Patton, American general of World War II, Heidelberg, Germany, 1945; Gladys Ripley, contralto, Chichester, 1955.

Marriages

Mr G.W.M. Crewdson and the Hon A.M.A. Cecil
The marriage took place yesterday at Holy Trinity Brompton of Mr Giles Wilson Mervyn Crewdson, only son of Mr and the Hon Mrs Peregrine Crewdson, to the Hon Aurelia Margaret Amherst Cecil, only daughter of Lord and Lady Amherst of Hackney. The Rev J.A.K. Millar officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Jessica Reid, Venetia, Edwina and Rose Langley, Alice Lindsay, Emma Lumsden, Miss Caroline Hutton and Miss Perella Davies. Mr Roddy Sale was best man.

A reception was held at the Hyde Park Hotel and the honeymoon will be spent in the Far East.

Sir Francis Newman, Bt and Miss K.M. Edwards
The marriage took place on Tuesday, December 18, in Nepal, of Sir Francis Newman, Bt, and Miss Katharine Edwards.

Captain N.B. Henderson and Miss S. Tait
The marriage took place on Thursday, December 20, at The Church of The Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, of Captain Nicholas Brodie Henderson, 17th/21st Lancers, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ian Henderson, and Miss Sophie Tait, younger daughter of Admiral Sir Gordon and Lady Tait. The Very Rev Peter Cryan, ODC, and Father Francis Edwards, SJ, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Camilla, Lucy and Rupert Ralston, Miranda Hadsley-Chaplin, Rose Webb-Carter, Alexander and Olivia Hornung, Sam Strang Steel and Rachel and Jonathan Stenning. Mr James Henderson was best man.

A Lance Guard was formed by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the 17th/21st Lancers.

A reception was held at Claridges and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr J.W.D. Everett and Mrs A.R.J. Chalmers
The marriage took place on November 17, between John Everett and Diana Chalmers, widow of John Chalmers.

Mr R.S. Lockwood and Miss C.E. Garnett
The marriage took place on Saturday, at St Wilfrid's Church, Calverley, of Robert, elder son of Mr and Mrs Austin Lockwood, of Beckenham, Kent, and Caroline Elise, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Garnett, of Calverly, West Yorkshire.

Mr F.J. Machin and Miss V.M. Spratt
The marriage took place quietly on Friday, December 14, in Stafford, of Mr Francis James Machin and Miss Victoria Madeleine Spratt.

Mr J.R. Rose and Dr B. Webb
The marriage took place in Brixton, on December 17, between John Rose, of Kennington, and Betty Webb, of Raleigh, North Carolina.

University news

Liverpool
Appointments
David Oldham, Senior Lecturer in the School of Architectural Studies at the University of Sheffield, has been appointed to the Chair of Building Engineering.

David Schiffrin, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry, University of Southampton, has been appointed to the Chair of Physical Chemistry.

Alan Shenkin, Consultant Biochemist, Institute of Biochemistry at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, has been appointed to the Chair in Clinical Chemistry.

Avrom Sherr, Lecturer in Law and Director of Legal Practice, University of Warwick, has been appointed to the Alsop Wilkinson Chair of Law.

Strathclyde
Mr Tom Ridley, of Ove Arup and Partners, has been appointed a visiting professor to assist with a new post-graduate course in integrated building design next year at Strathclyde.

Stirling
Dr Magdolna Csath, professor of strategic management and international business at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, US, has been appointed to the new chair in international business, from next June.

Royal Victorian Order

The Queen has commanded that a service of the Royal Victorian Order is to be held in St George's Chapel, Windsor, at 11.00am on Tuesday, April 30, 1991, followed by a reception in St George's Hall, Windsor Castle, for all Members and Medallists of the Order attending the service.

Due to the limited seating capacity of the chapel, tickets for the service and the reception will be restricted to Members of the Order and holders of the Royal Victorian Medal only. Please do not apply for tickets for spouses, or other guests, who are not Members or Medallists of the Order. Honorary Members of the Order are not eligible to attend.

Members of the Order and Medal holders who wish to attend should apply for a ticket as soon as possible and not later than Friday, March 15, 1991, stating also if they require a car parking label. Applications should be made to the Registrar of the Royal Victorian Order, The Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood, St James's Palace, London, SW1A 1BH.

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OBITUARIES

SIR WILLIAM WEIPERS

Professor Sir William Weipers, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Glasgow Veterinary School from 1968 to 1974, died on December 15 aged 86. He was born on January 21, 1904.

SIR William "Bill" Weipers, was universally regarded as the father of the modern veterinary school at the University of Glasgow and he had a far-reaching influence on the development of veterinary teaching and research in other parts of the world. He was born in Kilburnie, Ayrshire, the son of the Church of Scotland minister of that parish. His mother originated from farming stock in Aberdeenshire.

The family moved to the East End of Glasgow in 1908 when he was four and he went to primary school in Dennistoun and then to Whitehill Secondary School. He entered the Old Glasgow Veterinary College in 1921 and graduated MRCVS in 1925. Subsequently his whole working life was spent in Glasgow except for a year's study in Edinburgh for the Diploma in State Veterinary Medicine and two years on the staff of the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College in Edinburgh where he eventually became a member of the board of management.

On returning to Glasgow he set up in practice in the West End and rapidly established a reputation as an outstanding clinician. Patients were brought from all corners of the country to his surgery or alternatively he travelled to visit his patients. However, despite his reputation as a clinician Weipers will be primarily remembered as the man who took the Glasgow Veterinary College into the university system in 1949 following the second Loveday report and he became director of the school in 1949 and eventually dean when the faculty was established in 1968. Aided and abetted by two successive principals of Glasgow University, Sir Hector Hetherington and Sir Charles Wilson, he established the Glasgow Veterinary School as one of the finest in Europe and gained world-wide recognition for its teaching and research.

When he retired in 1974 Weipers could reflect with some satisfaction on his contribution to veterinary education and research throughout the world. He was associated with the development of the veterinary faculty at Nairobi and was a permanent member of the Agricultural Research Council and the Horserace Betting Levy Board.

The events of 1986 through to 1990 during which period the veterinary school in Glasgow was threatened by a recommendation for closure, had a disturbing effect on him. However, in spite of his advancing years, he entered the fray and played a positive role in arguing for the continuation of veterinary education at Glasgow. He and his great friend Sir James Black presented a petition to the prime minister containing nearly 700,000 signatures from all over the world, protesting against the recommendations of the Kiley working party. When the veterinary school was finally reprieved in February 1990 his pleasure knew no bounds.

A kind and considerate man with a pawky sense of humour, Weipers had as his greatest asset an ability to judge people. This enabled him to select in the 1950s an outstanding group of young veterinary scientists who developed the research strengths of the school to the level which exists today.

Once fired with an idea Weipers pursued it with great and logical vigour. Once, when he was in practice in Glasgow a drug traveller called and suggested Bill might like to go sailing with him. Despite his Calvinistic feelings that inducements should not be accepted, off they went to Arran and he was rapidly hooked on the sport. By the next week he had purchased a boat and two books on sailing. The following weekend he set out from Gourock on the Clyde, having read chapter one. Just beyond the pier the boat was blown over and the sail filled with water. He luffed her up as advised in chapter two and sailed across the firth, standing on the side of the boat. Then, following the practice laid down in chapters three and four he got her to a berth and tied her up.

His interests spanned many other areas, the countryside, animal welfare, sailing, wine and food, debating and above all arboriculture. Evidence of the last is evident in many parts of the university.

In 1939 he married Mary MacLean who came from Barra, and so a life-long association with that island was formed, culminating in the purchase of a cottage which they renovated and visited regularly. Lady Weipers died in 1984 and he is survived by his daughter.

ANNE REVERE

Anne Revere, American stage and screen actress, has died at her home on Long Island aged 87. She was born in 1903.

A CHARACTER actess of truly regal stature, Anne Revere was black-listed after winning an Oscar in Hollywood, but then returned to the Broadway stage to win a Tony award. During her film career she won an Academy award in 1945, playing Elizabeth Taylor's mother in *National Velvet*. She was also nominated for an Oscar in a supporting role as the mother of Jennifer Jones in the 1943 film, *The Song of Bernadette*, and in 1947 as Gregory Peck's mother in *Gentleman's Agreement*. She continued with her forte, which was playing maternal roles, when she was both mother and counsellor to John Garfield in the brilliant boxing epic, *Body and Soul* (1947), while in 1951 Montgomery Clift became her son in *A Place In The Sun*, based on Theodore Dreiser's epic novel of American life, *An American Tragedy*.

However that same year, her name was among 300 which appeared on the Hollywood black-list. She had refused to testify about any possible ties with the Communist party when she appeared before the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Rather than allow any aspersion to be cast on the Screen Actors Guild as a result of her refusal, she voluntarily resigned from its board of directors. She then returned to the New York stage, where she had begun a distinguished career in the early 1930s.

Born into a comfortable New England family — her father was a stockbroker and a descendant of Paul Revere, of American Revolution fame — she graduated from Wellesley College and worked in repertory companies after studying at the American Laboratory School in New York.

She made her Broadway debut in *The Great Barrington* in 1931, but it was not until 1934, when she portrayed Martha Dobie in Lillian Hellman's *The Children's Hour* that her talents were fully recognised. The drama polarised audiences, dealing as it did with lesbianism, and Miss Revere was very much at the forefront of the legal action which took place to keep it on the stage in Boston, where it had been banned by the mayor. Coincidently, it was in another Lillian Hellman play, *Toys In The Attic*, in which she played an inflexible spinster opposite Maureen Stapleton and Jason Robards, that she received the Antoinette Perry (Tony) Award, 36 years later.

Until her defiance of the House committee she had worked steadily in such distinguished pictures as *The Howards of Virginia*, *The Flame of New Orleans*, *The Keys of the Kingdom*, *Dragonwyck*, *You're My Everything* and many more.

She acknowledged late in her life that during her years in films, "I got to know communists and communism, but I knew it wasn't for me. I'm a free-thinking Yankee rebel, and nobody's going to tell me what to do." It was that defiant attitude, rather than her politics, which she believed had got her into trouble with the House committee.

She was married to for 49 years to the stage director Samuel Rosen, who died in 1984.

JOYCE PORTER

Joyce Porter, crime novelist, died on December 9 aged 66. She was born on March 28, 1924.

JOYCE Porter wrote crime novels of that difficult and dubious kind which hovers between spoof and seriousness. Although their humour was black, they found quite a wide readership, not only on both sides of the Atlantic, but in various foreign language editions, including Japanese. The last, *The Cart Before the Horse*, was published in 1979, but many are still available and they are now being reissued in America. This was really all she had ever hoped for them. "I write to make money," she said, "and to while away a couple of hours for the reader."

She was born in Marple, Cheshire. Her father, Joshua Porter, was a solicitor's clerk. Her surviving brother, Canon Roy Porter, is a theologian and former teacher of classical Hebrew at Oxford and Exeter universities. Joyce Porter went to Macclesfield High School for Girls and then read English at King's College, London. After serving briefly in the ATS and drifting through some secretarial jobs, she joined the Women's Royal Air Force in 1949. A two-year Russian course qualified her for confidential work which she found absorbing.

In 1963, having been transferred to a recruiting job, she left the service, but she had already prepared the way for a new career by completing three detective novels. Somewhat prosaically named *Dover One*, *Dover Two* and *Dover Three*, they were published respectively in 1964, 1965 and 1966, by Cape in Britain and Scribner's in New York. Their protagonist was the fat, ill-tempered Chief Inspector Dover, who seemed more concerned with his own creature comforts than with the catching of criminals. "The fact that his career as a detective had endured," wrote Miss Porter, "and even flourished in a mild way, was almost entirely due to the fact that most criminals, incredible as it may seem, were even more inept and stupid."

In 1967, with *The Chinks in the Curtain*, she launched a new series, featuring an almost equally anti-heroic secret agent, Eddie Brown, who, characteristically, in the next book about him, *Neither a Candle nor a Pitchfork* (1969), had to ward off, while in female disguise, the advances of a lesbian Soviet official.

Joyce Porter's fictional world contained, indeed revelled in, every form of repulsive behaviour from incest to cannibalism and violent castration. A third, more memorable series began with *Rather a Common Sort of Crime* (1970). The protagonist, on this occasion, was an aristocratic amateur detective, The Honourable Constance Ethel Morrison-Burke, known as the Hon Con, who had taken to criminal investigation because callisthenics failed to absorb her inexhaustible energy. Unintellectual though they might seem to be, both Dover and the Hon Con did solve their crimes, and by methods quite legitimate within the conventions of a straight detective story. They are, Dover especially, substantial characters of a grotesque sort. Dover featured also in a dozen short stories, mainly for Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine*.

Joyce Porter never married and lived for many years in Wiltshire. She evidently found rural life less black than she painted it in her novels since she threw herself enthusiastically into village activities. During the past 11 years, having made enough money for her needs, she wrote no more detective fiction but devoted herself instead to wide-ranging original research for what would eventually have been a biography of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth, sister of the last Tsar, who became a nun, founded a convent in Jerusalem and was killed at Ekaterinburg.

A few weeks ago, on a trip to China with her brother, Miss Porter contracted pneumonia. She seemed to have been cured but died suddenly on the aeroplane as they flew home.

ALAN YATES

Alan Yates, surgeon, has died from cancer aged 57. He was born on December 9, 1932.

WITH the early death of Alan Yates the cardiac surgical world has lost someone full of vitality, humour and an enormous capacity for work. Yet he was above all a devoted family man. Yates qualified with honours at Sheffield and after house jobs did his national service in Gibraltar.

He trained under Lord Brock at Guy's Hospital which was the making of him as a cardiac surgeon. Lord Brock held him in the highest esteem and he progressed rapidly in clinical acumen and surgical skills, being elected to the staff of Guy's in the late 1960s.

He could have made a fortune in private practice but instead he devoted most of his time to the National Health Service. He excelled and took great delight in careful pre-operative assessment and meticulous post-operative care, especially in the intensive care unit which he personally directed for 20 years, giving his expertise to patients in his own and in other units. He would start work early in the morning and was often still at it late into the evening. There was hardly a Saturday when he did not operate on National Health Service patients. This continued until a few months before his death.

He shouldered his management tasks with the same gusto and thoroughness that he displayed in all his other duties. He always spoke his mind in a direct and friendly way, delivering his advice with a refreshing frankness and always with an infectious laugh.

In the 1970s he went to the Middle East to help in establishing cardiac services. On one particularly hot day he plunged into the Mediterranean and swam across the harbour at a speed never seen before by his surgical colleagues. On his return they closely questioned him. He admitted that he had done some swimming in his youth, but until hard pressed he concealed the fact that he had swum in the 1954 Olympics.

He leaves his widow and four sons.

Memorial service

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir William Swan
The Queen was represented by Major-General Sir John Swinton, Lord-Lieutenant of Berwickshire, at a memorial service for Lieutenant-Colonel Sir William Swan held yesterday at Duns Parish Church, Berwickshire. Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were represented by the Duke of Buccleuch. The Rev Peter Graham officiated. Mr Allan Swan, son, and the Rev Hugh McKay read the lessons. The Very Rev W. Johnston, Chaplain to The Queen in Scotland, gave an address.

School news

Sevenoaks School
Sixth Form Scholarships 1991
The following awards have been made:
Blexbers International Baccalaureate Scholarship: Charles Lyon, Lycee El Germaine, Paris.
Exhibitions: Claudia Dunmore, St Margaret's School, Montreux; Evelyn Wormersley, Sevenoaks.
Sackville Scholarships: Nicholas Clayton, Sevenoaks.
Exhibitions: Lara Mitra, Sevenoaks; Sara Hart, Walthamstow Hall; Jennifer Taylor, Parsons Mead, Ashtead; Hannah Grant, Sevenoaks.
The Worshipful Company of Pipemakers and Tobacco Blenders for Academic and All-Round Achievement Scholarships: Thomas Mawarina, Warwick School; Philip Walton, Sevenoaks; Geoffrey Steafield, Sevenoaks.
Alan Tammadge Mathematics Scholarship: Claire Brian, Wycombe High School.

Appointments

Judge John Anthony Stannard to carry out the duties of a Circuit Commercial Judge in Liverpool, in accordance with the Lord Chief Justice's Practice Direction issued in February. He will conduct hearings in Liverpool.

Mr John Stephen Sadler to be chairman of the Authorised Conveyancing Practitioners Board from February 1, 1991.

Mr Khurshid Drabu to be chairperson of the United Kingdom Immigrants Advisory Service.

Downside Abbey

The Community of Downside Abbey, assembled in Chapter on December 15, 1990, elected Dom Charles Fitzgerald-Lombard to be tenth Abbot of Downside in succession to Abbot John Roberts.

Archaeology

Graffito puts expert on trail of London lighthouse

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ROMAN London may have had a lighthouse similar to the great Pharos of Alexandria, according to an archaeologist who also suggests that part of the lighthouse may survive within the Tower of London.

The prime clue is a Roman brick in the British Museum incised with a graffito of a four-storey building, each storey set back from the one below. Nicholas Fuentes, an archaeologist, says in the *London Archaeologist* that the brick came from the collection of Charles Roach Smith, the pioneer rescue archaeologist of London who died in 1890, and thus is likely to be from the city.

More than two dozen Roman representations of *pharoi* are known from mosaics and sculptures, many showing the stepped-back profile. The Pharos at Alexandria is known from ancient descriptions to have been similar. It was built around 300 BC, stood over 300 ft high, and had a light visible for more than 35 miles. Mr Fuentes says that the London brick is likely to have been decorated by a workman and "appears to show a *pharos* in elevation, while attempting to indicate an octagonal plan for its lowest storey, amended to three octagonal storeys surmounted by a square and by a light-tower of undefined plan".

The obvious location for a lighthouse would be on the river at the downstream end of the City. The Tower of London had two tall towers shown in early picture-maps. Of the two, the Bell Tower is octagonal in plan with three offsets in the wall, and a rather awkward circular upper part which is thought to be later. There is, however, internal architectural evidence for a twelfth century date. The Lanthorn Tower, says Mr Fuentes, is arguably better located. The original tower was destroyed in 1777 but on a scaled plan of 1682 it is shown with an octagonal vice (a spiral stair around a central pillar) some 23 ft across.

The concept of a late Roman defensive area under the Tower of London, first posited by Sir Alfred Cispham in 1913, receives some support from finds of silver ingots and a building of 4th century date. While Mr Fuentes concludes that only excavation will determine whether the octagonal predecessor of the present Lanthorn Tower is Roman in origin, there is little likelihood of proving it to have been a lighthouse.

Source: *London Archaeologist*, vol 6 No 8: 208-215.

Design fault that dogged Roman barn conversion

ARCHAEOLOGISTS claim to have discovered the earliest barn conversion — a primitive building in Northamptonshire that was upgraded into a comfortable Roman residence (Norman Hammond writes).

At the site near Raunds, a Roman barn and mill had been converted into a villa, complete with underfloor heating and mosaic floors. Later, though, it had to be partly demolished because of faulty planning. The gable wall of one wing of the villa at Stanwick was found flat on the ground after being pushed over. The wing was unsafe because it was built over the leat — or water-channel — that supplied the original mill.

Graham Keevill, of the Oxford archaeological unit, said: "In the 2nd century a simple two-roomed building was constructed. The larger room was probably the miller's house, but that to the east acted as a cellar. The south side had a large barn door. When the mill went out of use, the original mill-cum-barn became the core of a desirable winged corridor villa — the first "yuppie" barn conversion in Britain."

A hypocaust, a typical Roman underfloor heating system was installed, the former mill was floored with mosaics, east and west wings were added and an upper floor constructed. It was partly demolished in the 4th or 5th century.

The project complements the work of English Heritage which has been uncovering an entire Roman estate a mile from the villa.

Source: *Current Archaeology* 122:52-55.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.D. Brecher and Miss S.A. Musry
The engagement is announced of Richard Daniel, elder son of Mr and Mrs Henry A. Brecher, of London, to Shirley Ann, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronald Musry, of London.

Mr H.M. Cobbold and Miss N.J. Hacker
The engagement is announced between Humphrey Michael, son of Mr Anthony Cobbold, of Weston under Redcastle, Shropshire, and Mrs Marnie Cobbold, of Congleton, Cheshire, and Nicola Josephine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Hacker, of St John's Wood, London.

Mr N.J. Cox and Miss B.J. Hornsby
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of the late Major L.F. Cox, RA, and of Mrs P.A. Cox, of Malvern, Worcestershire, and Belinda, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.F.Hornsby, of Hethersett, Norfolk.

Mr D.J. Dornan and Miss J.E. Morgan
The engagement is announced between Derek, elder son of Mr and Mrs James Dornan, of Glasgow, and Justine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Morgan, of Haslemere, Surrey.

Mr R.H. Garai and Mrs E.D.J. Eldon
The engagement is announced between Robert, younger son of Mr Bertram Garai and the late Mrs Muriel Garai, of Woking, Surrey, and Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Reilly, of East Grinstead, Sussex.

Dr T.P. la Hausse Brown and Miss F.K. Shaw
The engagement is announced between Timothy, second son of Professor and Mrs Stephen Brown, of Stanton-on-the-Wolds, Nottinghamshire, and Fiona, daughter of Dr and Mrs Michael Shaw, of Curbar, Derbyshire.

Mr W.N. Herring and Miss K. Redpath
Mr and Mrs W. Redpath, of Appleton Park, Cheshire, are pleased to announce the engagement of their elder daughter Karen to William, son of Mr and Mrs R.N. Herring, of Roxby, South Humberside.

Lord Rayleigh and Miss A.K. Patterson
The engagement is announced between Lord Rayleigh, of Terling Place, Chelmsford, Essex, and Annabel, youngest daughter of Mr W.G. Patterson, of Kisbys Farm, Ecchinswell, Newbury, and the Hon Mrs Sandra Patterson, of 23 Lamont Road, London SW10.

Mr J.S. Roger and Miss K.E. Ringwald
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Roger, of Hereford, Herefordshire, and Kathy, daughter of Mr Richard Ringwald, CBE, and Mrs Audrey Ringwald, of Bradfield, Berkshire.

Mr H.H.A. Summers and Miss H.J.C Anstruther
The engagement is announced between Hamish, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Tony Summers, of Adelaide, Australia, and Harriet, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Anstruther, of Petworth, Sussex.

Mr J.P.L. Sweet and Miss F.M. Phillipson
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J.C.L. Sweet, of Chesham, Buckinghamshire, and Fiona, only daughter of Mr and Mrs I.M. Phillipson, of East Horsley, Surrey.

Mr B.H. Sykes and Miss B.M. Sneyd
The engagement is announced between Brian, younger son of Mr and Mrs Reginald Sykes, of Cheadle, Cheshire, and Bridget, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Sneyd, of Menheniot, Cornwall.

Mr N.J. Ward and Miss C.J. Smith
The engagement is announced between Nicholas John, youngest son of Dr and Mrs B. Ward, of Oakley, Hampshire, and Catherine Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J.H.B. Smith, of Church Knowle, Dorset.

Mr J.C.E. Wilson and Miss C.A. Oakes
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs J.C. Wilson, of Ingoldisthorpe, Norfolk, and Carolyn, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.E. Oakes, also of Ingoldisthorpe, Norfolk.

When there is jealousy among you and you quarrel with one another, doesn't this prove that you belong to this world, living by its standards?
1 Corinthians 3 : 3 GNB

BIRTHS

ADAMS-CAIRNS - On December 20th, to Susan and Roderick, a son, a brother for Fergus.

APPLEFORD - On December 11th, at St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, to Penny (née Buddery) and Paul, a daughter, Emma Susan, a sister for Katie Louise.

BLANC - On December 19th, at The Portland Hospital, to Elizabeth and Jose, a son, Thomas Edward.

COOK - On December 13th, at The Portland Hospital, to Jane and David, a daughter, Lucy Jane. Merry Christmas to everyone.

FURSE - On December 14th 1990, in Fownhope, to Gaynor and Tim, a daughter, Victoria Kate, a sister for Harry.

GADSBY PEET - On December 17th, to Jennifer (née Capon) and Antony, a son, William, a brother for James and Edward.

NICHOLSON - On December 18th, in Madrid, to Diana (née Seely) and Edward, a daughter, Zoe Mary Louisa, a sister for Alexander.

PENNINGTON-HUGHES - On December 4th, to Julie and John, a son, Tomas James, a brother for Georgina, Joseph and Jack.

PRESTON BELL - On December 17th, to Nicola (née Cannon) and Max, a son, Christopher James.

VICCARI - On December 13th, to Carolyn (née Henderson) and Adam, a son, James Adam, a brother for Jessica.

DEATHS

ACLAND - On December 17th 1990, at home, Mary Maxwell, aged 99 years. Widow of Theodore William Coll Acland. Funeral Service private. Requiem at Christ Church, Chelsea. Saturday December 29th at 10.30 am.

ALLIBONE - On December 15th 1990, peacefully at St James' Hospital, Leeds, Eric Cory Allibone M.D. Dear husband of Eleanor and devoted father of Eve, Joan and Richard. The funeral is private but it is hoped to arrange and announce a Service of Thanksgiving in the New Year.

BALFOUR - On December 19th, peacefully at Chilton House, Jean (Sarah/Sally), widow of Gilbert and much loved mother and grandmother. Funeral Service on Thursday January 3rd at 2.30 pm at Whipsnade Church. Family flowers only. A special thank you to the nurses and staff at Chilton House for their kindness and care.

BROOKE - On December 19th, Mary Gwenllian Blandy, the beloved wife of the late Peter Brooke and the mother of Robin, Tom and Victor. Funeral on Wednesday January 2nd at St Michael's Church, North Cadbury, Somerset at 2.30 pm. Flowers to H. Miles & Co., South Cadbury, Somerset.

CALLELY - On Tuesday December 18th, Geof, peacefully at Papworth Hospital after his long illness which was borne with great courage, determination and optimism. A loved husband of Eileen and father of Stephen and Elizabeth. Greatly missed by all who knew him well especially Felicity, John and Bill. The family will be at home to welcome all his friends on Friday December 28th from 11 am. Donations if desired to Papworth Hospital Transplant Fund, Papworth Everard, Cambridge or Cardiac Research Fund c/o Professor Henderson, University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff.

CLAPHAM - On December 18th, at Lancaster Royal Infirmary, Prof. Arthur Roy Clapham, C.B.E., F.R.S. Cremation December 27th.

DURSTON - On December 19th, peacefully after a short illness, Dorothy May, beloved mother of Elaine, stepmother of Jean and granny of Susie and Juliet. Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Church, Colden Common, near Winchester, on Thursday December 27th at 11.15 am, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations if desired to The British Heart Foundation c/o John Steel & Son Ltd., Chesil House, 5 Chesil Street, Winchester, SO23 8HU.

FAIRFIELD - On December 19th, peacefully at Ludshott Court, Headley, Bill, husband for 55 years of Ruth, father of Nick, Louise and Sally, grandfather of Dominic, Rupert, Zoe and Duncan. Funeral at 2.30 pm on Monday December 31st at St Mary's Church, Bramshott, Hampshire. Family flowers only, donations if desired to British Diabetic Association or Hampshire Association for the Blind. Enquiries: Loff & Partners, 84 Lion Lane, Haslemere, (0428) 643524.

GOUGH - On December 19th 1990, peacefully in hospital after an illness bravely borne, Sybil Anne Suffolk (Nancy), devoted wife of the late Colonel J.G.M.B. Gough, beloved mother of Benjamin, Thalia and Lucy and loving grandmother. Funeral Service at Lady St Mary, Wareham, Dorset, on Thursday December 27th 1990 at 11.30 am.

HARRIS - On December 20th, in Devon, Gladys Evelyn, beloved wife of the late Dr. J.E.G. Harris and mother of John and Marjorie.

HICKS - On December 19th, at her home in Lower Beeding, Ivy Hilda, aged 96. Widow of William Albert. Funeral at Holy Trinity Church, Lower Beeding, at 2 pm Monday December 24th. Enquiries to Freeman Brothers. (0403) 64890.

MARSH-WHITE - On December 17th, in Johannesburg, after much suffering, borne with courage, Desmond, aged 82. A generous loving father, grandfather and friend. He will be sadly missed by his family and all who knew him around the world. Enquiries Chichester 788123.

MARTIN - On December 19th, peacefully, Dorothy Helen, aged 85 years. Widow of John Hanbury (Toby) and darling aunt to so many. Funeral Service at Putney Vale Cemetery Chapel on Thursday January 3rd at 11.45 am. Family flowers only please.

NATHAN - On December 20th 1990, peacefully, Edgar, in his 96th year. Beloved husband of Nina, father of John and Daphne, loving grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service at 12 noon Sunday December 23rd at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane. Flowers may be sent to the crematorium.

PENDRED - On December 17th, aged 88, Benjamin Willis, for many years editor of The Engineer. Much loved and sadly missed.

SATCHELL - On December 18th 1990, suddenly in hospital, Gerald Leonard, aged 70 years, of Lytham St Annes, formerly of Kensington, London, a devoted husband of Pam and loving father of Lesley, a very special man, much loved by his family and friends. Former owner of Satchell's Car Hire Ltd. Funeral Service at Lytham Park Crematorium Friday December 28th 11.30 am. Family flowers only please, but donations if wished for the P.D.S.A. or Lytham Based Lifeboat Guild c/o J & A Porter, Windsor Road, Ansdell, Lytham St Annes, FY8 1AH, tel: (0253) 735423.

SCOTT - On December 19th 1990, peacefully at Fircroft House Nursing Home, Tunbridge Wells, Irene, dear sister of Kenneth, aunt and beloved friend. Funeral Service at St Mark's Church, Reigate, on Friday December 28th at 11 am, followed by cremation at Leatherhead Crematorium. Donations may be sent to The Children's Society c/o E.R. Hickmott & Son, 41 Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1SD.

SLESSINGER - On December 18th 1990, very suddenly at home, Gerard, aged 66, beloved husband of Iola, very dear father of Emma and James, after many years ill-health, characteristically resisted with pugnacious courage. Private family funeral. "He who would valiant be".

SOMERVILLE - On December 18th 1990, suddenly at home, John Brownlie, only son of the late John and Robina Somerville, formerly of Glasgow. Funeral Service at Chichester Crematorium on Thursday December 27th at 11.30 am to which all friends are respectfully invited.

STUDHOLME - On December 19th 1990, Virginia, Lady (née Palmer), peacefully at home, beloved wife of the late Sir Paul Studholme Bt. and mother of Harry, James and Anna and sister of Jennifer (Bullock). Family funeral. Service of Thanksgiving to be announced. No flowers please. Donations to Exeter Hospicecare, Mowbray Cottage, Butts Road, Heavitree, Exeter, Devon EX2 5BE.

TALLENT - On December 19th, 12.45 am, Diana Mellow, peacefully at the Devonshire Nursing Home, Eastbourne, after struggling with her illness for nine months. Dearly loved Aunt of Christopher and Helen. May she rest in peace.

VOSTE - On December 17th, suddenly, Albert Francis, dearly beloved husband of the late Simonne Lucienne and dearest friend of all who knew him. Funeral at Brookwood Cemetery, Woking, Surrey, on Thursday December 27th 1990 at 2 pm. All enquiries to Geo. Farmer & Sons, 115 Reading Road, Yateley, nr. Camberley, Surrey, tel: (0252) 872297.

WARNER - On December 20th, peacefully at home, Marion Warner, of Milford-on-Sea, Lymington, Hants. Cremation private, no flowers by request.

WEEKES - On December 19th, at the Nuffield Hospital, Exeter, Margaret L. (Peggy), wife of Kenneth. Funeral Service Exeter Crematorium, Friday December 28th at 2 pm. Family flowers only.

WHITE - On December 19th, peacefully at St Wilfrid's Hospice, Bertha Joyce ("Betty"), aged 82. Beloved wife of Bertram, stepmother of John, Susan, Antony. Funeral at Chichester Crematorium, Thursday December 27th at 1.30 pm. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to St Wilfrid's Hospice, Chichester. Funeral Directors Edward White & Son, (0243) 782136.

WOULFE FLANAGAN - On December 18th, in Oporto, Portugal, Frances, daughter of the late Stephen and Gertrude Woulfe Flanagan, of Lecarrow Lodge, Co. Sligo. Dear sister of Hubert and of Winifred Fitzgerald-Lombard and a much loved aunt and great-aunt.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

STIRLING-HAMILTON - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Eileen, Lady Stirling-Hamilton will be held at St Mary's Church, Funtington, Chichester, on Tuesday January 8th 1991 at 2.30 pm.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

HOBBS, Sir John Berry - Jack Hobbs. Born 16.12.1882 - Died 21.12.1963. The Greatest - The Perfect Batsman - The Master.

Birth and Death notices may be accepted over the telephone.

For publication the following day please telephone by 5.00pm Monday to Thursday. 4pm Friday. 9.30am-1.00pm Saturday for Monday's paper.

071 481 4000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The British Home and Hospital for Incurables

has been caring for the chronically sick and disabled since 1861. We are a registered charity (No. 206221), receive no direct Government grant and rely on your support. Please help us to continue our work.

Donations to Matron Kelly, at BHHI, Crown Lane, Streatham, London SW16 3JB.

ARMS (Action and Research for Multiple Sclerosis)

Caterham Super 7 Car Build Competition

The 3 people who guessed nearest to the time taken to build a Super 7 car at the Essex Motor Show are -

Mr TJ Reed, Corby, Northants
Mr AW Evans, Llangynnog, Carmarthen, Dyfed
Mr DG Ball, Melbourne, Derbys
- who will be notified by ARMS.

The actual time taken was 30 hrs. 17 mins. 25 secs.

AUTHORS

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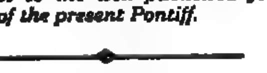
DEC 21 — ON THIS DAY — 1924



The clandestine sortie of Pope Pius XI from the Vatican is in sharp contrast to the well publicised jet travel of the present Pontiff.

THE POPE

DRIVE THROUGH ROME

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

ROME, Dec. 20

Pope Pius XI. celebrated the 50th anniversary of his priesthood to-day by leaving the Vatican City and saying mass in the Cathedral Church of St. John Lateran.

When on July 25 last the Pope took part in the Eucharistic procession round the Piazza San Pietro he was the first Roman Pontiff since 1870 to step outside the Basilica of St. Peter's and the walls of the Vatican Palace. Upon that occasion, however, the Pope did not set foot beyond the boundaries of the Vatican City. This morning he drove in strict incognito across Rome to that church which from the standpoint of dignity is the first in Rome and in the Roman Catholic world and thus for the first time really reassumed that liberty of movement which his predecessors had renounced since their voluntary imprisonment in the Vatican.

The Pope's decision to leave the Vatican was a carefully guarded secret. As late as yesterday afternoon the officials concerned had received orders to be in attendance at 6 a.m. to-day to be present at the mass which, as had been announced in the Press, the Holy Father was expected to say in St. Peter's. No sooner, however, had the members of the Papal Court arrived in the Vatican than they were instructed to go at once to St. John Lateran, where, as they learned to their astonishment, the Pope had decided to say mass. The Pope's decision was also a complete surprise to the general public. The Romans do not as a rule rise early, and when at 6.45 the three Papal motor-cars issued from the Court of San Damaso and went swiftly through the streets of Rome there were only a few people abroad, and not many of these realized that a historic event was being enacted before their eyes. Moreover, the route had been carefully chosen so as to avoid public attention.

The Pope is described as having shown deep emotion during the celebration of mass, and at certain moments to have been moved to tears. His voice almost failed him at the end, and those present could hardly distinguish the close of the service except by the gestures of the Pope as he imparted his blessing.

On his way back to the Lateran Palace the Holy Father stopped to admire a tablet in marble and bronze placed on the wall by the Chapter in commemoration alike of his Sacerdotal Jubilee, of the signature of the Lateran Treaties, and of this first Papal visit after so many years. As a special mark of his favour and in commemoration of to-day's event the Pope also announced his desire to present to the Basilica the golden chalice wherewith he had just celebrated mass.

Before leaving the palace the Pope visited the missionary museum. He remained for some time in the Council Hall of the Popes, where the Lateran Treaties were signed on February 11 last, and signed his name in the visitors' book. It was almost half-past 9 when the Pope drove back to the Vatican. Meanwhile news of his presence had begun to spread in the neighbourhood, and as the Papal procession came out in the Piazza di San Giovanni a number of people in addition to the seminarists had collected. As the Papal car came into view all fell on their knees. The Pope gave orders for the motor-car to slow down, and he drove slowly through their midst, bestowing upon them his blessing as he went.

FOR SALE

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FOR HIM

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FOR HER

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AMERICAN Bank urgently require luxury flats/houses for long term periods in Holland Park and Notting Hill Gate areas. Foxtons 071-221 3534.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cystic Fibrosis
RESEARCH TRUST
Statement of Street Collections on 25 September 1990 in the City of London Police District

Proceeds from Boxes	£3,940.50
Donations	251.83
Expenses (met from separate fund)	284.37

We thank all contributors and collectors who made it possible for a total of [illegible] to be used to fund vital research into Cystic Fibrosis, a life-threatening hereditary disorder affecting the lungs and digestion of children and adults, for which there is as yet no known cure.

Donations & Enquiries
to the Chief Promoter
Barbara Bentley
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5 Blyth Road,
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Please help with a donation now and a legacy later
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THE NATIONAL DEAF CHILDREN'S SOCIETY
The National Deaf Children's Society is the only charity especially concerned with the needs of deaf children and their families. It provides advice and information for parents, teachers, audiologists and others and supports children by providing specialised equipment, holiday and welfare grants, education and recreation. Please send a legacy/donation to David Bain,
THE NATIONAL DEAF CHILDREN'S SOCIETY
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THE HEART RESEARCH CHARITY
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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

THE ETHEOPIA REFUGEE HELP LINE

Would like to wish everyone who has helped them in 1990 a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

H.E.Y. sends Christmas and New Year wishes to all Old Haganians.

VERA. Mrs W. E. Rice, MBE. Sends Christmas Greetings to all her relations and friends, with sincere good wishes for health and happiness in the new year.

SITUATIONS WANTED

MARKETING and research director, business graduate, 30 years experience in national newspaper and magazine publishing, seeks position working on business problems or consultancy work. Please phone 081 948 1488 or please reply to Box No 2341

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

WINTON, JOAN. PERRYFIELDS, TYRELL WAY, PERRYFIELDS WAY, WEST HENDON, LONDON, NW9 7QS. DIED 4TH APRIL 1990: PARTICULARS TO BIDDLE & CO, SOLICITORS, 1 GRESHAM STREET, LONDON, EC2V 7BU, BEFORE 28TH FEBRUARY 1991

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
General Charity - Esther Doe's Almshouse Charity

The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this Charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX quoting reference TG-207628 A/2-CD (Ldn1). Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

LEGAL NOTICES

AFP GROUP PLC
Share Purchase Scheme

AFP Group plc ("AFP") has in place the necessary authorities and agreements to enable it to purchase a limited number of AFP shares which may be purchased on market by County Natwest Securities Australia Limited or Macquarie Equities Limited (each, a "vendor").

The scheme was approved by a special resolution passed at the annual general meeting of AFP held on 7 December 1990.

This notice summarises the main features of the scheme. Full details of the scheme were set out in the letter to shareholders and explanatory memorandum dated 26 October 1990.

1. The scheme only applies to shares in AFP which are purchased by a vendor as principal in the ordinary course of trading on the Australian Stock Exchange Limited ("ASX") (or, if the ASX permits, on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange).
2. The purchase price (exclusive of stamp duty) AFP would pay will equal the price paid by the relevant vendor, subject to a maximum of 105% of the average closing sales prices on the ASX for the five preceding trading days.
3. AFP will specify to each vendor the maximum number of shares AFP may be required to purchase and the maximum price it may pay. Purchases by AFP under the scheme will be limited to 38,300,000 shares (approximately 10% of issued ordinary shares).
4. Purchases may be made at any time between 11 December 1990 and 7 December 1991 (both dates inclusive).
5. AFP will pay stamp duty on purchases under the scheme and a subsidiary of AFP will pay to each vendor an additional amount of 0.3% of the purchase price
6. AFP will disclose to the ASX and the Amsterdam Stock Exchange details of any shares purchased by it by 9.30 a.m. Sydney time on the trading day following the purchase.
7. While the proposal remains in force, AFP will notify the ASX five business days prior to the end of each month to the effect that the proposal is still in force.
8. The proposal will be discontinued in the following circumstances:
   (i) once AFP has acquired the number of shares referred to in paragraph 3 above.
   (ii) in the event that AFP gives a notice of discontinuance of the proposal to the ASX, or
   (iii) at the expiry of 12 months from 7 December 1990;
   whereupon notification will also be made to shareholders by publishing a notice in a national newspaper in Great Britain and Australia.
9. AFP will publish a further notice in a national newspaper in Great Britain and Australia five business day prior to the end of May 1991 to the effect that the proposal is still in force, if the proposal is still in force at that time.
10. The directors of AFP have no present intention to make available for sale any shares held by them or by interests associated with them whilst a vendor may acquire shares pursuant to the proposal.

Dated 10th December 1990
P.M. McMahon
Company Secretary

LEGAL NOTICES

ALPHABET PRODUCTS LIMITED IN ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of creditors in the above matter is to be held at The Metropole Hotel, King Street, Leeds, on the 9th day of January 1991, at 14.30 hours, (1) to consider my proposals under s.23(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 and to consider establishing a creditors' committee.

E Klempka
Joint Administrator
Cork Gully, Albion Court, 5 Albion Place, Leeds LS1 6JP

ALPINE DEVELOPMENT CO LIMITED

Registered number: 2009650. Trading name: ALPINE DEVELOPMENT CO LIMITED. Nature of business: Property Development. Trade classification: 35. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 4th December 1990. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Midland Bank Plc. Philip Monjack F.C.A. and Keith David Goodman F.C.A. Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos) 2544 and 2407 respectively) of Leonard Curtis & Associates 20 New Road, Brighton East Sussex BN1 1UF

BALEACRE LTD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act, 1986, that a Meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of LEONARD CURTIS & CO., situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London, W2 6LF, on Monday, the 7th day of January, 1991 at 12.00 noon for the purposes provided for in Section 98 et seq.

A list of names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.

Dated the 11th day of December 1990
A.M. GAYER
Director

Designcastle Limited
In Administrative Receivership

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in pursuance to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a general meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named company will be held at the offices of Messrs Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA on Tuesday 22 January 1991 at 11.00am for the purpose of having a report laid before the meeting and of hearing any explanations that may be given by the Joint Administrative Receivers. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented.

Please note that a creditor is entitled to vote only if he has sent to the Joint Administrative Receivers, not later than 12 noon on Monday 21 January 1991, details in writing of the debt he claims to be due from him from the company and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of the Insolvency Rules 1986 and has been lodged with the Joint Administrative Receivers and proxy which the creditors intends to be used on his behalf.

Dated this 14th day of December 1990
R HOCKING
Joint Administrative Receiver

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF WATSON-MARLOW LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 10th December 1990 confirming the cancellation of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company was registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 14th December 1990.

Dated this 21st day of December 1990
Allen & Overy
9 Cheapside
London EC2V 6AD
Solicitors for the Company

PIZZABILITY LIMITED
(In Administrative Receivership)

Registered Number: 1800577. Nature of business: Retail of pizza equipment. Trade classification: 15. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 13 December 1990. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: National Westminster Bank PLC. Vivian Murray Bairstow and Neil Hunter Cooper Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos 005316 and 005399/01) of Robson Rhodes, 186 City Road, London EC1V 2NU

SECURIS LIMITED

Registered number: 1599288. Nature of business: MANUFACTURER OF PASSIVE INFRARED DETECTORS. Trade classification. 07. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 11 DECEMBER 1990. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: AUTOMATED SECURITY INVESTMENTS LIMITED. PHILLIP RODNEY SYKES AND JOHN ROGER HILL Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos) 6119 and 5737) of 20 Old Bailey London EC4M 7BH.

TARGET DISTRIBUTION SERVICES LIMITED
(In Receivership)

Registered Number: 1388476. Trading Name(s): Target Distribution Services, The Target Group, Target Newspaper Distribution, Link. Nature of Business: Distribution of free newspaper and brochures. Trade Classification: 46. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 5 December 1990. Name of Appointor: Swiss Bank Corporation. N H Cooper & V M Bairstow, Joint Administrative Receivers, Office Holder No(s) 005399/01 and 005316 of Robson Rhodes, 186 City Road, London EC1V 2NU.

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 4.106(1)
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF LIQUIDATOR
RED HUDSON LIMITED
High Court No. 3372 of 1990

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Melvyn Laurence Rose, FCA, FCCA of Messrs. Elliot, Woolfe & Rose, Lidgra House, 250 Kingsbury Road, London, NW9 0BS was appointed Liquidator of RED HUDSON LIMITED on 20 September 1990.

Any Creditor who wishes to prove a claim in the Liquidation, is required to send me notice of their claim in writing to the above address, to arrive no later than 21 January 1991, else their claim will be excluded from any dividend which may be declared in the Estate.

Dated this 10 day of December 1990
MELVYN L. ROSE
TRUSTEE

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 4.106 (1)
IPD RETAILING LIMITED T/AS RADICLE IN CREDITORS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Dermot Brendan Coakley, Chartered Accountant, of Leach Bright & Partners Langton Priory Portsmouth Road Guildford Surrey GU2 5EH, was appointed Liquidator of the above named company on 12 December 1990.

All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their debts in writing to me at the above address.

No further public notice or advertisement to prove debts will be given.

Dated this 12th day of December 1990
D B COAKLEY
Liquidator

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 6.124(1)
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE
SUNDER PARMANAND LALVANI
High Court No. 4676 of 1990

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Melvyn Laurence Rose, FCA, FCCA of Messrs. Elliot, Woolfe & Rose, Lidgra House, 250 Kingsbury Road, London, NW9 0BS was appointed Trustee of SUNDER PARMANAND LALVANI on 27 September 1990.

Any Creditor who wishes to prove a claim in the Bankruptcy, is required to send me notice of their claim in writing to the above address, to arrive no later than 21 January 1991, else their claim will be excluded from any dividend which may be declared in the Estate.

Dated this 10 day of December 1990
MELVYN L. ROSE
TRUSTEE

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 4.106(1)
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF LIQUIDATOR
TEPCO COMPUTERS LIMITED
High Court No. 0557 of 1990

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Melvyn Laurence Rose, FCA, FCCA of Messrs. Elliot, Woolfe & Rose, Lidgra House, 250 Kingsbury Road, London, NW9 0BS was appointed Liquidator of TEPCO COMPUTERS LIMITED on 3 May 1990.

Any Creditor who wishes to prove a claim in the Liquidation, is required to send me notice of their claim in writing to the above address, to arrive no later than 21 January 1991, else their claim will be excluded from any dividend which may be declared in the Estate.

Dated this 10th day of December 1990
MELVYN L. ROSE
TRUSTEE

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity - The Mass Observation Archive

The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this Charity. A copy of the draft scheme can be seen at 36 High Street, Steyning, West Sussex, BN44 3GL... or obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX quoting reference 270218-A/1-CD(Ldn1). Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

LEGAL NOTICES

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
THE PHEASANTRY GROUP LIMITED - IN RECEIVERSHIP
KEDSTYLE LIMITED - IN RECEIVERSHIP
ROWNSTAR LIMITED - IN RECEIVERSHIP
DRINGSTORE LIMITED - IN RECEIVERSHIP
SOLDTASTE LIMITED - IN RECEIVERSHIP

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 48 of The Insolvency Act 1986, that meetings of creditors of the above companies will be held at Grant Thornton House, Melton Street, Euston Square, London NW1 2EP at 10 o'clock in the forenoon on 21 December 1990.

In order for creditors to be able to vote, details of your claim must be lodged at Grant Thornton House, Melton Street, Euston Square, London NW1 2EP not later than 12 noon on 20 December 1990. In addition, a form of proxy must also be lodged prior to the meetings.

IAIN J. ALLAN
Joint Administrative Receiver
Date 6 December 1990

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
No. 009787 of 1990
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF STERLING TRUST PLC
(formerly Dewey Warren Holdings PLC)
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 10th December 1990 confirming:-

(i) the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £7,000,000 to £3,810,964.10; and
(ii) the reduction of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company from £68,139,080 to £20,416,756.90

was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 12th December 1990.

DATED this 21st day of December 1990
TRAVERS SMITH BRAITHWAITE of 10 Snow Hill, London, EC1A 2AL
Solicitors for the above-named Company

IN THE MATTER of NOTICEGLEN BUILDERS LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER of THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of The Insolvency Rules 1986 notice is hereby given that I, Keith David Goodman, FCA, a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Messrs. Leonard Curtis & Co., 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors on 10th December 1990.

DATED THIS 10TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1990
Keith David Goodman, FCA
Liquidator
Leonard Curtis & Co,
Chartered Accountants,
P.O. Box 553,
30 Eastbourne Terrace
London W2 6LF

IN THE MATTER of STANHOPE HOLDINGS LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER of THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of The Insolvency Rules 1986 notice is hereby given that Kevin Paul Barry, FCA, of Messrs. Leonard Curtis & Co., 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LF, and Terence Charles Carter, Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London, SE1 7EU, both Licensed Insolvency Practitioners, were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above Company by the members and creditors on 11th October 1990

DATED THIS 11TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1990
Kevin Paul Barry, FCA,
Joint Liquidator Leonard Curtis & Co. Chartered Accountants, P.O. Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF
and Terence Charles Carter,
Joint Liquidator, Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU

IN THE MATTER OF ANN BARKER'S FOOD PRODUCTS LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of The Insolvency Rules 1986 notice is hereby given that I, Philip Monjack F.C.A. a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Messrs. Leonard Curtis & Associates, 20 New Road, Brighton East Sussex, BN1 1UF was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors on 6th December 1990.

Dated this 6th day of December 1990
P Monjack F.C.A.
Liquidator

IN THE MATTER OF TRICORANGE LTD Trading As ALEXANDERS CHARIOT BRASSERIE
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above-named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 23rd day of January 1991, to send in their full forenames and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned PHILIP MONJACK, FCA Leonard Curtis & Co., 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF the Liquidator of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated this 12th day of December 1990
P. MONJACK
Liquidator

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
AND
LANDORE TREDOMEN INDUSTRIES LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above named Company will be held at 141 Great Charles Street, Birmingham B3 3LG on Thursday 17th January 1991 at 11.00 in the forenoon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Creditors should forward a statement of their claim by 12 noon on Wednesday, 16th January 1991 to James Anthony McCann, Licensed Insolvency Practitioner, of Messrs. Poppleton & Appleby, 141 Great Charles Street, Birmingham B3 3LG who will, free of charge, supply to those creditors whose claims have been lodged in writing by the prescribed time on that day with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.

DATED THIS 14TH DECEMBER 1990
I. L. S. EXETER
DIRECTOR

ORIENTAL CREDIT LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 594 of the Companies Act 1985, that meetings of the Members and Creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Touche Ross & Co, Hill House, 1 Little New Street, London EC4A 3TR on Tuesday 15th day of January 1991, at 3.00 pm for the purpose of receiving an account of the Joint Liquidators' acts and dealings and of the conduct of the winding-up during the year to 26th October 1990.

S A SMOUHA AND
A R HOUGHTON
JOINT LIQUIDATORS
17th December 1990

LEGAL NOTICES

TYPESHARE LIMITED

Registered number: 1540097. Former company name: GRIGGEN LIMITED. Trading name: TYPESHARE LIMITED. Nature of business: TYPESETTING BUREAU. Trade classification: 10. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 10th December 1990. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: BARCLAYS BANK PLC. KEVIN PAUL BARRY, FCA and KEITH DAVID GOODMAN, FCA Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos. 8741 and 2407) of Leonard Curtis and Co. 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF.

LEGAL NOTICES

ALPINE PROPERTY INVESTMENT CO LIMITED

Registered number: 2192224. Trading name: ALPINE PROPERTY INVESTMENT CO LIMITED. Nature of business: 35. Trade classification: Property Investment. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 5th December 1990. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Midland Bank Plc. Philip Monjack F.C.A. and Keith David Goodman F.C.A. Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos. 2544 and 2407 respectively) of Leonard Curtis & Associates, 20 New Road Brighton East Sussex BN1 1UF

ELECTRICITY NOTICE SOUTH WALES ELECTRICITY Plc

Take notice that South Wales Electricity Plc has applied for a Private Electricity Supply Licence in the following terms:

1. Full name of the applicant(s):
   SOUTH WALES ELECTRICITY plc
2. Address of the applicant(s) or, in the case of a body corporate, the registered or principal office:
   NEWPORT ROAD
   ST. MELLONS
   CARDIFF CF3 9XW.
3. Where the applicant is a company, the full names of the current Directors and the company's registered number.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS	NON EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
JOHN WYNFORD EVANS	JOHN FOLEY
DAVID HAROLD JONES	PETER WILLIAM LLOYD MORGAN
DAVID REECE MYRING	SIR PETER JOHN PHILLIPS
DAVID BYRON SAMUEL	VIVIEN MARY POLLARD
JAMES EDDYSHAW	DAVID JOHN PROSSER
ALAN WORTH	REGISTERED NO. 2366985

4. Where a holding of 20 per cent or more of the shares of an applicant is held by a body corporate or partnership or an unincorporated association carrying on a trade or business with or without a view to profit, the names and addresses of the holders of such shares shall be provided NOT APPLICABLE.
5. Desired date from which the licence is to take effect: 31st January 1991.
6. A sufficient description adequately specifying the nature and situation of the premises intended to be supplied, separately identifying premises within the power bands specified in and to the extent provided in paragraph 7 below: All non domestic premises with a demand above the franchise limit in the following PES areas:

Eastern Electricity plc
East Midlands Electricity plc
London Electricity plc
Manweb plc
Midlands Electricity plc
Northern Electric plc
NORWEB plc
SEEBOARD plc
Southern Electricity plc
South Western Electricity plc
Yorkshire Electricity Group plc
Scottish Hydro-Electric plc
Scottish Power plc

7. (a) Subject to sub-paragraph (b) indicate the total number of premises intended to be supplied in each power band as shown in the table below, together with the aggregate energy forecast to be supplied and the aggregate estimated maximum demand for each power band.

(b) If the date in paragraph 5 above is on or after 1st April 1994 then only Power Band A shall be completed and if the said date is on or after 1st April 1998 then this paragraph shall cease to have effect.

Power Band	Number of premises	Aggregate maximum demand	Energy (Gwh) to be supplied
(i) Not exceeding 0.1 MW	NONE	NONE	NONE
(ii) Exceeding 0.1 MW but not exceeding 1.0 MW	NONE	NONE	NONE

8. A description of the system of electric lines and electrical plant by means of which the applicant intends to supply electricity, indicating which plant and lines are to be constructed and which are existing plant and lines, and further identifying any parts of that system which will not be owned by or otherwise in the possession or control of the applicant:

Lines and Plant owned by:

The National Grid Company plc
Eastern Electricity plc
East Midlands Electricity plc
London Electricity plc
Manweb plc
Midlands Electricity plc
Northern Electric plc
NORWEB plc
South Wales Electricity plc
SEEBOARD plc
Southern Electricity plc
South Western Electricity plc
Yorkshire Electricity Group plc
Scottish Hydro-Electric plc
Scottish Power plc
or any Authorised Electricity Operator

9. A statement of the extent (if any) to which the applicant considers it necessary for powers under Schedule 3 (compulsory acquisition of land etc) and under Schedule 4 (other powers etc.) to the Act to be given through the licence for which he is applying.
   As laid down in the Public Electricity Supply Licence granted to South Wales Electricity plc on 28th March 1990
10. Details of any licence held, applied for or being applied for by the applicant in respect of the generation, transmission or supply of electricity: Public Electricity Supply Licence.

Copies of maps relevant to this application have been lodged in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Electricity (Applications for Licences and Extensions of Licences) Regulations 1990 at Regional Offices of the Office of Electricity Regulation. Copies are available for inspection by the public between 10 am and 4 pm on any working day.

K. HOWARD
COMPANY SECRETARY
SOUTH WALES ELECTRICITY PLC
NEWPORT ROAD
ST MELLONS
CARDIFF CF3 9XW

THE HIGH COURT

1990 No. 17218 PCt6

IN THE MATTER OF:
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT LIFE OFFICE

AND IN THE MATTER OF:
FRIENDS PROVIDENT LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

AND IN THE MATTER OF:
THE ASSURANCE COMPANIES ACT 1909
AND THE INSURANCE ACT 1989

TAKE NOTICE that a Petition has been presented to the High Court by the directors of Friends' Provident Life Office ("the Office") and the directors of Friends Provident Life Assurance Company Limited ("FPLAC") seeking the sanction of the Court under section 13 of the Assurance Companies Act 1909 of a Scheme providing for the transfer to FPLAC of the business assets rights obligations and liabilities relating to the Irish Branch of the Office, and for other ancillary relief.

Copies of the Petition, the Scheme and actuaries' reports thereon (including a report by an independent actuary) may be inspected at each of the offices of the Office and at the registered office of FPLAC during usual business hours for a period of fifteen days from the publication of this notice.

The Petition is to be heard on 21st January 1991 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon at the Four Courts in the City of Dublin and any person who may be entitled to be heard may appear at the time of hearing in person or by counsel or solicitor.

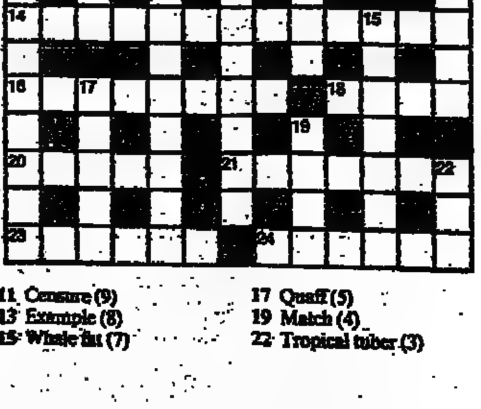
Any person who intends to so appear, and any policyholder who objects to the Scheme but does not intend so to appear, should give not less than two clear days prior notice in writing of such intention or dissent, and the reasons therefor, to the solicitors named below.

Copies of the documents specified above will be furnished by such solicitors to any person requiring them prior to the making of an order sanctioning the Scheme on payment of an appropriate charge therefor.

Dated the 21st day of December 1990
McCann FitzGerald,
30 Upper Pembroke Street, Dublin 2,
Solicitors for the Petitioners.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2364

ACROSS
1 Void (6)
4 Unique object (3-3)
9 Three-lobed plant (7)
10 Magnanimous (5)
11 Bay (4)
12 Beach undercurrent (8)
14 Unrestrainable (13)
16 Point to (8)
18 Replete (4)
20 Latin Troy (5)
21 Paper deliverer (7)
23 Fashioning (6)
24 Giants' Causeway county (6)



DOWN
1 Liquid tub (3)
2 Heavy hatchet (7)
3 On (4)
5 Balderdash (8)
6 Circle (5)
7 Coast (9)
8 Secret (11)
11 Censure (9)
13 Example (8)
15 Whale fat (7)
17 Quaff (5)
19 Match (4)
22 Tropical tuber (3)

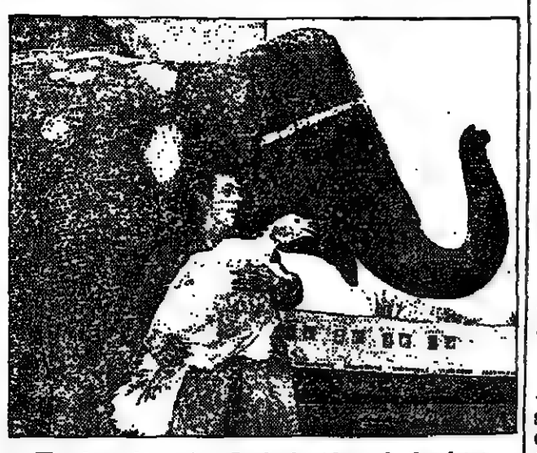
SOLUTION TO NO 2363

ACROSS: 1 Legato 6 Cutting 8 Flavour 9 Orphans 10 Limbo 11 Lung 12 Stay 15 Ends 17 Bran 19 Onion 20 Caravan 22 Coppice 23 Navarre 24 Priest

DOWN: 1 Lifelike 2 Grammy 3 Twofold 4 Stop 5 Silent 6 Crown price 7 Gas 13 Youngest 14 Snooper 16 Derive 18 Simile 20 Can 21 Verb

هكذا من الأصل

The turkey takes a bow



The three ring turkey: Lucky is at home in the circus

A bird destined to become a Christmas centrepiece has ended up centre stage

LIFE for the average British turkey is pretty straightforward. He is born, fattened and then killed. We can be reasonably certain that there is no poetry, no romance, no heartsearching quest for a *raison d'être*. It is a short life with no purpose other than to provide the simmering centrepiece of Christmas lunch.

This season about ten million British turkeys will be killed. Rare is the bird that bucks the system and lives to gobble on a bright and frosty Boxing Day dawn.

But such a bird is Lucky, the cherished pet of Gerry Cottle, the circus owner. This Christmas, while millions of his species head for posthumous stuffing, Lucky will celebrate the fourth anniversary of his escape — his failure to rendezvouz with the oven.

For the past four years he has lived happily at Addlestone Moor, Weybridge, Surrey, the site of Mr Cottle's winter quarters. On special occasions he has a cameo role in the circus, usually trotting after the clowns. "He always raises a laugh," Mr Cottle says. "In the summer he loses lots of feathers — it's not every circus that boasts a bald turkey."

The impresario spotted Lucky in 1987 when he was buying meat to feed his lions. Preferring fresh turkey he bought the bird from his local butcher intending to give him some last minute fattening before having him for Christmas lunch. However, once Mr Cottle had taken a closer look at his live purchase, he had second thoughts.

"There was something about him. He had an interesting face, different, a streak of individuality, exhibitionism, call it what you will. I decided to keep him," he says.

With a brain the size of an undernourished pea, it is unlikely that the reprieved turkey was aware of his U-turn with destiny. Mr Cottle claims his unusual pet has a unique personality. "He is different. It is hard to pin down how or why. But because he was bred for consumption it's difficult to keep his weight down. We have him on a permanent diet."

Lucky has befriended Mr Cottle's trio of Indian elephants, Susie, Jamie and Sarah. Sensibly, he gives the lions a wide berth. But having avoided conversion to a main course he did once have a brush with mortality. "Our llama sat on him and he was squashed," Mr Cottle says. "It knocked the stuffing out of him. But the local vet had him up and about in no time."

THIS Christmas will provide one of the highlights in Lucky's calendar. On December 27, when millions of citizens will be staring bleary-eyed at plates of jaded leftovers, Lucky will be performing centre stage at Mr Cottle's Big Top at Wembley.

Father John Metiver, the local vicar of St Michael's Church, will bless the circus animals and the pets of spectators. Lucky is travelling from Weybridge to take part in the ceremony.

"He hasn't much of a brain and he doesn't say much but we are all very fond him," Mr Cottle says.

JOHN MCENTEE

Expensive power to the people

As the toys and games given to children grow in cost and complexity, so do the batteries they require. Victoria McKee tests a selection

Batteries play an increasing role in the contemporary Christmas ritual. Unless you are green enough (in all senses of the word) to believe you can convince your children to content themselves with home-made solar-powered toys, or hand-carved wooden ones from sustainable forests, batteries must be among the priorities on your shopping list this weekend. And unless you are careful, you can end up spending more to maintain a walking, talking doll than some men give their former wives for maintenance.

In a month's time the cost of the batteries you have bought could add up to more than the price of the toys which require them — if nature does not kindly intervene by ensuring the children have lost interest by then.

Toys are increasingly powered by batteries rather than imagination, until it is not even safe to assume that board games and doll's houses can do without them. The Precious Places plastic houses (one of this season's hottest gifts for girls) not only need to be assembled (a fact not advertised on the box), but demand batteries for their full preciousness to be appreciated. And games such as Shark Chase (£13.99) and Bedbugs (£10.99) cannot be played without them. In fact, one of the only good things to say about Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles is that few of their products (with the exception of walkie-talkies) require batteries.

One doll growls unpleasantly when her batteries wear down

Parents should read toy boxes carefully before wrapping them, as the disclaimer "batteries not included" can be printed in very small letters.

Nothing is a bigger disappointment than the moving doll who refuses to move, even when you kick and shake her, or who begins to growl in a most unpleasant way when her batteries wear down — like the Oopsie Daisy, £37.87 from Argos, one of this year's top sellers who crawls and cries. And that takes only about eight hours on Duracell alkaline, and as little as three on less expensive, zinc chloride batteries.

A smaller crawling doll, the Primeline Baby Crawl Away (£9.99 from Beatties) pegged out after her six hours on £1.49-worth of Vidor alkaline long life batteries, and three on Vidor rechargeables.

The Nintendo Game Boy hand-held computer game console (£69.95) — addictive and in constant use by four children — did not last a weekend on Ever Ready's zinc chloride, but survived for nearly two weeks on Duracell's longer-lasting and more expensive alkaline batteries, which means it costs about £5 a month to maintain — even when it is not in use when the children are back at school.

Remote-controlled cars seem to eat batteries — particularly as they can be "on" and draining even when they are not moving. Both car and control need to be switched off for optimum economy, and even a small one like the Tanyo Mini-Hopper III (£29.95 from Beatties) went through four Vidor alkaline MN1500s (£2.98 a pack) plus a nine-volt battery (£2.98) in a weekend's heavy use by our four young testers.

We also tested a battery-operated Tomy football game (£17.50 from Beatties) which was so noisy that we never exhausted its battery life.

If greenness is a consideration, Varta was a pioneer of mercury and cadmium-free zinc chloride, and low mercury and cadmium alkaline batteries, although the German-owned company generously points out that most of its major competitors now conform to EC guidelines of not more than 0.025 per cent of mercury or cadmium by weight for alkaline batteries. Several of them put green flashes on their packs proclaiming "EEC-Approved — For The Environment", although this does not indicate any official endorsement. Our tests — admittedly not terribly scientific — did not show up any discernible difference in usage times between leading brands of alkaline, zinc chloride and rechargeable batteries, although a recent report in November's *Which?* magazine recommends Panasonic rechargeable batteries as having performed best in its laboratory tests, and in a study by the Good Housekeeping Institute Vidor tied with Ever Ready for top place among alkalines. (*Which?* also noted in the same report that "fresh from the factory, a disposable battery has already used up to 50 times the power in being made that it will ever provide the user".)

Paul Fildes, Varta's marketing services manager, says: "Undoubtedly rechargeable batteries are the greenest and most economical choice, because they can be recharged up to 1,000 times at only about ½p per charge cycle." Varta invites consumers to freepost their used rechargeables back to the company for recycling of the small amount of cadmium in them — and for every two cells sent back they are given a 50p voucher towards their next purchase of rechargeables. Varta is also working on a cadmium-free rechargeable, using nickel hydride, but says: "There's no point in introducing a green product if performance has to be compromised, because people just won't buy it."

But the price of rechargeables — about £8 per pack of four MN1500s, compared with £1.50 for zinc chlorides which give a comparable (if one-off) performance — and the necessity to invest in at least two sets plus a charger (not less than about £10) can be off-putting to parents who do not take the long-term perspective.

Stocking up with rechargeables can cost more than the price of the toy for which they are intended — and parents complain that they do not hold their charge, possibly because, Mr Fildes suggests, they are not charging them correctly, or because they expect the performance of long-life alkalines.

Remembering that rechargeables do not come ready-charged is important. If they are essential to the enjoyment of Christmas, you had better start charging the night before.

"I've watched mothers going round the supermarket," says Mr Fildes (whose batteries sell mainly through supermarkets such as Gateway, Safeway and Sainsbury). "I see them buying mainly the lower-priced zinc chloride batteries, because they know their children are not going to switch off toys and will leave them draining all night, so it doesn't make a ha'p'orth of difference buying the twice as expensive alkaline sort."

You have been warned. And there is still time to return all the battery-operated toys you have already bought, and opt instead for those which rely more on imagination and ingenuity.

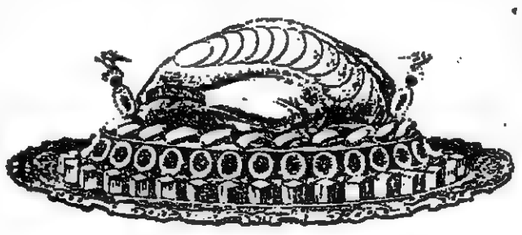
CHARLOTTE WINN

Things that go bump on Christmas Day: but only if parents have remembered to buy the power packs

An A to Z of festive additives

Your Christmas dinner may not be as wholesome or appetising as it appears

WE ALL add a little to our consumption at Christmas. Precisely what, though, may come as a surprise. Here is an A to Z of Christmas food technology and seasonal additives which might mean that it is you who groan, rather than the festive board.



A is for amaranth (E123). It could be in your gravy if that is made from granules, or in packet soup, fruit pie fillings, ice-cream, jam or yoghurt. It is suspected of being carcinogenic, but the evidence is not accepted in the UK. Amaranth is banned in the United States and Soviet Union.

B is for beetroot red (E162). A "natural" colour increasingly used to simulate the colour of red berry fruits in party desserts, yoghurts and such. It is not necessarily any safer than artificial colouring.

C is for caramel (E150). Ubiquitous, and not merely burnt sugar. It is more commonly made by heating carbohydrates with ammonia and sulphur dioxide. The Food Advisory Committee is concerned that we may all be eating too much caramel, which is estimated to account for 98 per cent of all the colouring most of us consume. C also stands for canthaxanthin (E161g), used in fish feed to turn farmed salmon pink.

D is for dichlorodifluoromethane, one of the liquid gases used in quick-freezing tender foods such as peas and brussel sprouts. This was the chemical with which Thomas Midgley proved that chlorofluorocarbons were not toxic, and could be used as refrigerants. Unfortunately he did not know they would go on to eat up the ozone layer.

E is for erythrosine (E127), an artificial colouring which keeps the cherries in Christmas cakes from going brown. The Food Advisory Committee wants its use restricted to glacé and cocktail cherries. The Committee on Toxicity thinks even that could have harmful effects. It can still be used in unlimited quantities in jams, cakes, desserts and other foods.

F is for fat. If you want to avoid it, steam and skin the poultry, bake the potato, and go without the trimmings.

G is for gold. Yes, even one of the Wise Men's gifts comes with an E number — used to decorate luxury cakes, chocolates and confectionery it is E175. Not all that glisters is gold, though. The gloss on dried fruit is more likely to come from liquid paraffin (905) and the shine on apples could be shellac (904).

H is for hydrogenated. Hydrogenation hardens vegetable oils, and thus makes their fat more saturated and potentially more harmful. Hydrogenated vegetable oils are likely to be in Christmas cakes, pies, and puddings.

I is for iron oxide (E172). Make your party cakes from packet mixes, and rust could be a surprise ingredient.

J is for jams and jellies. These can be a highly confected brew of colourings, preservatives, antioxidants, stabilisers, buffers, sequestrants, flavourings and sweeteners.

K is for kaolin (559). With morphine it may settle your stomach. In food technology it is an anti-caking agent. That does not mean it is meant to put you off cake, but that it is used to prevent food particles sticking together.

L is for lecithin (E322). An emulsifier produced from soya beans, vegetable oils, eggs, milk, liver or fish, which binds together fat and water so that manufacturers can sell water in "low-fat spreads" at margarine prices.

M is for magnesium silicate (553a). Another anti-caking agent, this time employed principally in sugar confectionery.

N is for nitrous oxide. If your cream comes from an aerosol can, most of its volume is likely to come from this propellant gas.

O is for octyl gallate (E311). An antioxidant used in chicken soup and instant potato products. Like other gallates (E310-E312), it is banned from baby foods, and suspected of causing intolerance, liver damage, and irritating the intestines.

P is for propionic acid (E280). This could be the preservative that stops your Christmas pudding going mouldy. It has been taken out of bread, so many bakers now use vinegar instead.

Q is for quinoline yellow (E104), one of the coal tar dyes which can cause asthma, rashes and hyperactivity. Q also stands for quillaia extract, used to put a foaming head on some soft drinks, such as ginger beer.

R is for riboflavin (E101), a vitamin (B2) which is one of only three colourings still permitted in baby foods. It is orange-yellow and can be extracted from natural sources or manufactured synthetically. Its worst known effect is to discolour the urine.

S is for saltpetre (E249). The preservative which kept botulism at bay, still used in curing bacon and hams, is now, like all nitrates and nitrites (E249-E252), well established on the suspect list. Nitrates and nitrites can produce nitrosamines which have been linked to cancer and foetal abnormalities in animals. The Food Advisory Committee suggested phasing them out 17 years ago, but no substitutes have been found.

T is for tartrazine (E102). The most notorious of the synthetic azo dyes may still be found in marzipan. People who experience adverse reactions to tartrazine may develop asthma, migraine, dermatitis, rashes and other skin complaints.

U is for UHT. Over the Christmas and New Year holidays more people than ever are likely to buy UHT (long-life) milk, cream and juices. Ultra heat treatment is a method of sterilisation which has been in use since the Sixties. It involves injecting the liquid with steam and then using flash evaporation to reconstitute it to its original strength. UHT creams and milks taste "cooked". UHT cream may contain added citrates (E331-E333) as flavouring emulsifiers. UHT fruit juices taste different from fresh too, and lose much of their vitamin C content.

V is for vanilla. Tons of "vanilla" ice-cream and confectionery have no trace of real vanilla, which is the pod of a climbing orchid. Instead they are flavoured with cheaper vanillin, a substance obtained from waste sulphite liquor, a by-product of paper making, and may be coloured with curcumin (E100), turmeric or caotene (E160a) to achieve a creamy appearance.

W is for water. The food manufacturers' most profitable ingredient, it is present in increasing quantities in poultry, hams, spreads, frozen foods and even bread. Polyphosphates (545) can be used to increase the water content of chickens, turkeys and cooked meat products by up to 120 per cent.

X is for xanthan gum (E415). Not as widely used as gum arabic (E414) in confectionery, or tragacanth gum (E413) in salad dressings and processed cheese, but it serves a similar purpose as an emulsifier. Without emulsifiers, manufacturers' sauces would separate and fat would float to the top of dairy products. They are also used in brandy and rum sauces.

Y is for yellow, a troublesome colour. Yellow 2G (107) was proved toxic and has been withdrawn. The government has also said that it intends to ban crocin, the yellow colouring derived from saffron. (See also quinoline yellow and tartrazine, above).

Z is for zest. Many people's appetite for citrus peels, traditional ingredients of Christmas cakes, puddings, sauces and stuffings, has lost its zest since they learnt that most fruit skins are waxed to extend their shelf life.

ROBIN YOUNG

Ghostly carolling of war and peace

Last Sunday carols were sung by candle-light in a cold Norfolk church that has stood deserted on army land for 50 years. George Hill was at the service

In eastern Europe this Christmas, thousands of worshippers will be gathering for only the first or second time since the rout of communism, to celebrate the birth of Christ in churches which were sealed off from sacred use for half a century.

The nearest Christmas parallel in Britain to those gatherings further east took place in Norfolk last Sunday, at a carol service at West Tofts church, where an old faith has been reaffirming its vitality on ground from which its expression has been barred for most of the past half-century.

The situation was not the same, but the same background of armed conflict and clash of ideologies surrounded the Norfolk congregation as they belted out the old carols with a zest attained only by those who know that the louder they sing, the better their chance of warding off hypothermia. We had come well swaddled in overcoats, mufflers and woolly hats, for the walls around us had the chill of masonry which has stood unheated for almost 50 years.

The most reliable way of getting into the battle area is to die

West Tofts is one of the four ghost churches of the Breckland, on the Norfolk-Suffolk borders. In 1942, when Britain stood in imminent fear of invasion, the 750 inhabitants of 18,000 acres of farmland near Thetford were turned out of their farms and villages at five weeks' notice, when the area was requisitioned as a military training ground.

The army and the government promised that the villagers would be allowed to go home after the war — this promise was not kept. But a promise was also made in 1942 to protect the four churches from wind and weather, and this promise has been kept. The defence ministry is defensive about them, recognising their potential as a focus of protest in any future "give back our land" campaign.

The churches are almost inaccessible to the public. A trespassing foot might all too readily be blown off by an unrecovered shell — and in any case, the perimeter is guarded by disturbingly young lads in battledress, nursing real guns. It is possible to visit under escort, if one applies weeks before, but the most reliable way of getting into the battle area is to die. Occasionally a former inhabitant asks to be buried there, and a cortège metaphorically ventures out into no man's land under a white flag.

Local attitudes towards the battle area were marked from the first by a mixture of patriotic stoicism and deference. What resentment there was in 1942 faded as the years passed and the appropriation became an important source of local employment. But private grief, over the loss of the places where one has grown up in, fades less easily.

The army's wind and weather guarantee extends only to basics. The churches are bare as barns, with the desolate beauty of places that are in the world, but no longer of it. "Something has got to happen about those churches quite soon," a nameless MoD source concedes. "When those promises were made, people were thinking of the duration of the war."

This is the third year that a carol service has been held at West Tofts. It is the most accessible of the four churches, and could be released from its enchantment by a minimal readjustment of the border of the exclusion zone (an event which would be deeply embarrassing to the diocese, already overburdened with redundant churches). Before the carol service, dozens of helpers from the village worked for five days to sweep the pigeon-droppings out of the aisles and arrange candles and wreaths of holly along the windowsills.

The church was crowded to the door. It was lit inside by hundreds of candles fluttering in the draught off the heath. The eye read the tremulous candle-light as radiantly bright, but the shadows lurking in the vaults helped to hide the big flakes of plaster peeling from the medieval spandrels, and the birds' nests in the mouldings. The church's daytime pathos of dereliction was completely dispelled. Each of the congregation of 340 was given a small candle to nurse, and we were grateful for the warmth it gave. Outside, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.

"It was never as full as this in the old days," said 80-year-old Mary Butters, who used to be a pupil at the village school, which is now just an outline on the ground between the vanished pub and the vanished post office. "People have come from far and wide. I have put on so many layers of clothes that I'm three times my normal size — but I wish I'd brought a rug for my knees, too."

Mrs Butters has visited the site of her old home several times. "It is strange to see the village as it is now — I've cried bitter tears over it. I feel dreadful when I see the rubble which used to be our house."

Mrs Butters taught in the vanished Sunday school, and remembers the clouds of incense that naughty choirboys used to send billowing round the church in the old days.

This week it was not incense but our breath that sent clouds billowing round the church, as we sang to keep out the cold. The band of the Royal Anglian Regiment provided a lusty accompaniment. They marked the last verse of each carol with a fanfare and a roll of drums, which braced us up willy-nilly into the infectious swagger of a march. We became the church militant, tramping in step towards the new Jerusalem.

The service was conducted with zest by Roy Tricker, a lay preacher who has written a guide to the church. He made a special prayer for peace — "especially for those who care for this training area, and those who use it" — and for "those who will be celebrating Christmas away from home — in the Gulf especially".

Events in the Gulf reached as far as West Tofts in more concrete ways. Most bandsmen in the regular forces are trained not only as musicians, but also as medical personnel. Most of them have been dispatched to the Saudi desert in case their services are needed there. It was therefore a territorial regiment that provided the band for this week's service.

The carols we sang seemed to offer a running commentary on current affairs: "And man, at war with man, hears not . . ." Despite Saddam Hussein, this week's headlines have been filled with news of probable cuts in British forces. But Lieutenant Colonel Paul Long, commandant of the training area, attending the service in mufti, said: "Use of the Stanford area was 48 per cent up last year. There is a shortage of training land in Britain, and as the troops come back from Germany, the need will increase."

Local people seem to feel little hunger for repossession, after so long. "The army are doing a good job," Mrs Butters said. "They look after the churches very nicely, and they've got to train somewhere."

"The place is so beautiful now. If they released it, bungalows would soon be built all over it," said Richard Easten, born in Stanford 68 years ago. His sister, already a war widow, was turned out with her four children in 1942 without even receiving compensation, because they were sub-tenants.

Mr Tricker is eager to see at least one of the four ghost churches returned to the outside world, and to regular worship. "I hope there are negotiations going on in high places over these churches. Their years behind barbed wire have given them a meaning of their own. Fifty years is just an episode in the history of a church 600 years old. How can anyone dare to say it will never be needed again?"

Training goes on at Stanford throughout the year, except for ten days at Christmas. Somewhere out in the darkness, we knew, armed men must have been preparing to pass the winter night in trenches or bivouacs, taking care not to make a sound or let a glimmer of light show, for fear of night attack.

"In fields where they lay . . ." Perhaps they were lying close enough to hear us sing, and to see the candle-light glimmering faintly out from the church, like a good deed in a naughty world. By next month, perhaps, they will be away in the Gulf, and in the thick of whatever might be happening.

Nursing our personal candles, each one as fragile as a life and with its own tiny warmth, we rose to hear the seventh lesson. It was St John, struggling to find words for the mystery of the Incarnation: the Word . . . the Light . . . "And *the light shineth in the darkness*; and the darkness comprehended it not . . ."

MARC ASPLAND

Onward Christian soldiers? Decaying danger sign outside the empty church at West Tofts; the army has kept its 1942 promise to protect it against wind and weather

Winter sports: from *A Frozen River Landscape* by Hendrick Avercamp (1585-1634); but was it any colder then?

Never too cold to paint?

Why the landscapes of Bruegel, Valkenborgh and Avercamp are keenly studied by meteorologists

WINTER landscapes, so frequently featured on Christmas cards, are known to reflect the colder climatic period from 1550 to 1850 often termed the little ice age. These pictures are also widely recognised as an accurate record of the conditions at the time. There is, therefore, a misleading impression that all winters were much colder than current seasons.

A wide range of other records provides a different picture. While severe winters were more common in that period, they were interspersed with mild winters on a par with those of the past two years. And average temperatures were only about 1C colder than in recent decades.

These past ups and downs provide scope for some interesting detective work. There is evidence that the harshest winters exercise a disproportionate influence on artists, and therefore the dates of the paintings can confirm other records.

Possibly the first example of such a great winter was in 1408. Thomas Walsingham recorded that birds such as thrushes and blackbirds perished almost entirely through hunger and cold. The prolonged intense cold could well have inspired the Limbourg brothers to produce, a few years later, the first precocious representation of northern winter in the *Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry*, now in the Musée Condé, Chantilly.

Even more striking is 1565, which inspired Pieter Bruegel the Elder to paint his famous series of winter landscapes and snowy nativity scenes. In previous years his execution of Christmas scenes was entirely different. For instance, his representation of the *Flight Into Egypt* in the Princes Gate collection, painted in 1563, is set in an exotic, almost summery, mountain landscape.

In the same period the intense cold of 1573, which in central Europe may have been the coldest winter in the last half-millennium, seems to have inspired Lucas Valkenborgh to paint his rural Flemish winter scenes. These make particularly good Christmas cards because of his use of falling snow to heighten the wintry effect.

Even more popular with the card manufacturers is Hendrick Avercamp. Many of the works of this artist, who was The Netherlands' earliest specialist in winter landscapes, date from the extraordinarily severe winter of 1608. His large groups of happy, carefree skaters have become synonymous with our image of the little ice age.

In the 17th century the more frequent cold winters, plus the popularity of Dutch winter landscapes, makes it almost impossible to single out notable winters.

THESE bitter winters were recorded by Dutch traders in both the pictures they bought and their business transactions. Because it interfered with trade, they kept meticulous records of when the canals were frozen. These confirm the pictorial evidence of frequent icy conditions.

In England we have to thank a Dutch artist, Abraham Hondius, for the most memorable images of the frozen Thames in London. His pictures in the London Museum of the ice piled up against Loudon Bridge in 1676, and the Frost Fair of 1684, when the Thames was frozen for nine weeks and huge crowds gathered on the ice, are unequalled by any other record of the period.

The surprising feature of the 18th century is that, despite having its share of severe winters, there nothing to match the flood of creative work in the preceding century and a half. So, apart from some notable British skating portraits, we have to wait until the 19th century for a new approach to the winter landscape.

The new development came in two forms. First was the forbidding and ominous work of Caspar David Friedrich, the German Romantic painter. His most famous picture is perhaps *Arctic Shipwreck* in the Kunsthalle, Hamburg. Inspired by the ice piled up on the River Elbe during the record-breaking cold of January 1823, he produced a stunning, desolate arctic scene. But in Britain, his recently acquired *Winter Landscape* in the National Gallery may be better known.

The second expression comes in the frequent winter scenes painted by the Impressionists in the late 19th century. Although the works cannot be linked with particular cold winters, such images as *La Pie* (the magpie) by Claude Monet, in the Musée d'Orsay, Paris, captures as well as any picture the charm of a sunlit snowscape.

BILL BURROUGHS

BRIEFING

Kirov coming to Edinburgh

LENINGRAD's Kirov Opera plans to attend next year's Edinburgh Festival, and plans are well advanced for the company to perform three or four works under its artistic director, the conductor Valery Gergiev: probably a feast of Mussorgsky including *Boris Godunov*, *Khovanshchina* and *Salammbo*. But a question mark hangs over whether Edinburgh's stage facilities are adequate. If not, concert performances will be presented. Meanwhile, the new Kirov production of Prokofiev's *War and Peace*, to be shared with Covent Garden, will first be seen here in a direct television relay from Leningrad, probably in July.

Positive figures

BRITISH cinema had a great year, even if the British film industry continued its seemingly terminal decline. Box-office revenues in Britain during 1990 were 12 per cent up on last year, according to new figures just published in *Moving Pictures International*.

Ghost idol: Patrick Swayze

The magazine's chart shows that the Top 100 films grossed £234 million, compared with £208m in 1989. Top performer of the year was *Ghost*, with that idol of the female teenage market, Patrick Swayze. That has taken £17m in just 10 weeks since its opening. *Pretty Woman* came second, with £11m. The top British film was *Shirley Valentine* (at No 11), beating *Memphis Belle* and *The Krays*. Evidence of the increasing popularity of foreign films is provided by the statistic that seven of them feature in the Top 100 (led by *Cinema Paradiso*), compared with only two last year.

Last chance . . .

THE hero of *The Real Don Juan* casually kills more rivals than most of us have had hot paellas, so that when God forgives him he looks pretty miffed to be saved from hellfire. Jose Zorrilla's 19th-century version of the legend is the most popular play in the Spanish-speaking world, and Oxford Stage Company production at Riverside Studios gives it tremendous bounce, setting off the grave sincerity of John Michie's Don. Ranjit Bolt's witty couplets please the ear. Ends tomorrow (081-748 3354).

GALLERIES

Downhill all the way from his early glory

André Derain and Sheila Fell, reviewed by John Russell Taylor

Some sleeping reputations should be let lie. Admittedly it is difficult to know which, until the necessary research has been done, and often conventional wisdom does prove to be quite incorrect. But sometimes recently, a scholarly determination to test and overturn the accepted view has been carried to perverse lengths. The new show of Derain: The Late Work at the Oxford Museum of Modern Art is an egregious case in point.

Derain, as every art student knows, hit his peak very early on. The great moment in his career was in 1906-7, when he was in his mid-twenties. Infected by the then fashionable Fauve passion for brilliant colour, he painted a series of unforgettable images of the Thames which endowed drab old Westminster and the soot-blackened City with dazzling prismatic hues, saying more in the process about the painter's state of mind than about the prosaic reality he must have had before him. After this he had a light flirtation with Cubism, and then, following the first world war, heeded Cocteau's "recall to order" and returned to study of the Old Masters and a rather drab neo-academicism. Nearly all of his really interesting later work was marginal: book illustrations, theatrical design and so on.

That, anyway, has been the "official" view for many years now. Something very similar has been the official view of de Chirico, Emile Bernard and several others who are supposed to have peaked prematurely and then gone into a long decline. It is not good that such blanket judgments should go unexamined. Fashion can play strange tricks with an artist's reputation, and some of the opinions which were standard 20 years ago look very bizarre now. So might it well be with Derain's later work. But alas, what the Oxford show appears to demonstrate conclusively is that earlier doubts about its value were very well founded.

At least this collection of Derain's work from the mid-Twenties onwards does clarify exactly what went wrong. The best work in the whole show is the earliest, "Arlequin et Pierrot" of 1924 (a perfect Cocteau-sponsored subject, incidentally). From then on it is all downhill. Warning should come in the first room, which contains a lot of rather feeble drawings of nudes. The problem with nearly all of them is that Derain just was not a very good draughtsman. Wavering between minute academic accuracy and a more modern readiness to generalize and abstract, he constantly gives the impression that when he could not easily resolve the detail, he just fudged it.

With the classic Fauve Derains, draughtsmanship really does not matter: these are intensely painterly paintings, in which colour is all. But given the weakness of his drawing, it seems peculiarly ill-advised of him to take up a way of painting which is entirely built on draughtsmanship. In painting after painting of the human figure, it is clear that he does not have sufficient idea of how a head fits on to a body, or how a foot is related to a leg. If he did know, his technique was clearly not equal to the task of rendering these relationships convincingly. He never arrived at a coherent style where this would not matter.

Worst of all, his sense of colour is rigorously suppressed. The overall effect of the exhibition is dominated by slightly varying shades of toffee and bile. It is as though, offended at being taken for no more than a fancy dancer, he deliberately cut off his leg to prove he deserved to be taken more seriously. And what is left is, as a rule, culpably fuzzy and unresolved. One or two fanciful landscapes with figures call Doris Zinkeisen to mind, though by no means as good as Rex Whistler. Some rather smudgy Bacchanalian revels fatally lack animation. When, once or twice, a painting turns out right, like the Tate's "The Painter and his Family" of around 1939, its semi-primitive effectiveness seems to be quite hit-or-miss. Only the Rabelais woodcuts, where he had to return to areas of flat, bright colour, have any of the old spirit.

'Derain just was not a very good draughtsman . . . when he could not easily resolve detail, he fudged it'

At least all the evidence is there, for the present generation to assess afresh. That is admirable, even if the results are disappointing. Derain can safely be put away for later generations to agonise over, if they will. On the other hand, Sheila Fell's day has clearly come. Since her early death in 1979 she has been neglected, for a variety of reasons. She had belonged to a group – the "kitchen sink" realists who showed at the Beaux Arts Gallery in the Fifties and early Sixties – which was then unfashionable, and her absence from the scene made her easy to overlook. But now the South Bank Centre has put together an admirable touring retrospective, and it has found its London home at the Royal Academy.

Derain had pretensions to being a great painter, and could not live up to them. Fell was obviously unconcerned with her standing in the world: she painted out of personal obsession, because she had to, and if her range was narrow she had perfect and complete control of it. Though there are some excellent portraits, essentially she was a landscape painter: specifically the landscapes of Cumbria, in and around her home town of Aspatria. She lived and worked most of her adult life in London, and seldom even visited Cumbria, but obviously her childhood surroundings, the grim streets of Aspatria and the unwelcoming hill farms, were always in her thoughts.

Though she was read as a realist at the time, from this distance it is clear she was nothing of the sort. She was a homegrown expressionist, who does not seem to have been influenced much by anybody, except perhaps Permeke. She is wonderful at finding the pattern underlying the hill farms, particularly when simplified and unified by snow. She is also brilliant at evoking the sights and colours of the brief harvest. But these are much more paintings about her feelings and her dreams than about external reality. Some of her most haunting works are the early paintings and large charcoal drawings, where the recurrent images of cattle, spires and snow achieve an almost Palmerish intensity and visionary gleam.

It is understandable that Sheila Fell should have slipped from mind, but in a world where the curiously similar Scot, Joan Eardley, has taken her place as a major figure, the same sort of recognition cannot be indefinitely withheld from her. Re-evaluations may sometimes be downward, but it is always invigorating to rediscover an artist whose stature grows with every viewing.

Derain: The Late Work. Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford (0865 722733) Tues-Sat 10-6 (Thurs to 9), Sun 2-6, closed Dec 25-26, until March 17.

Sheila Fell. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (071-439 4996) Daily 10-6, closed Dec 24-26, until Jan 20.

The best work in the whole show is the earliest: Derain's "Arlequin et Pierrot" of 1924, at Oxford

Madding or maddening?

John Russell Taylor investigates the criticisms levelled at the Royal Academy over its handling of the recent Monet exhibition

Amid the almost total ecstasy which the Royal Academy's recent Monet exhibition has inspired in British art-lovers, there have been a few dissenting voices. Very few of them have actually disapproved of the show itself (though one or two have complained that it was all repetition of the same few images), but quite a number have been unhappy with the way it was organised, and several of those complaints have found expression in letters to *The Times*.

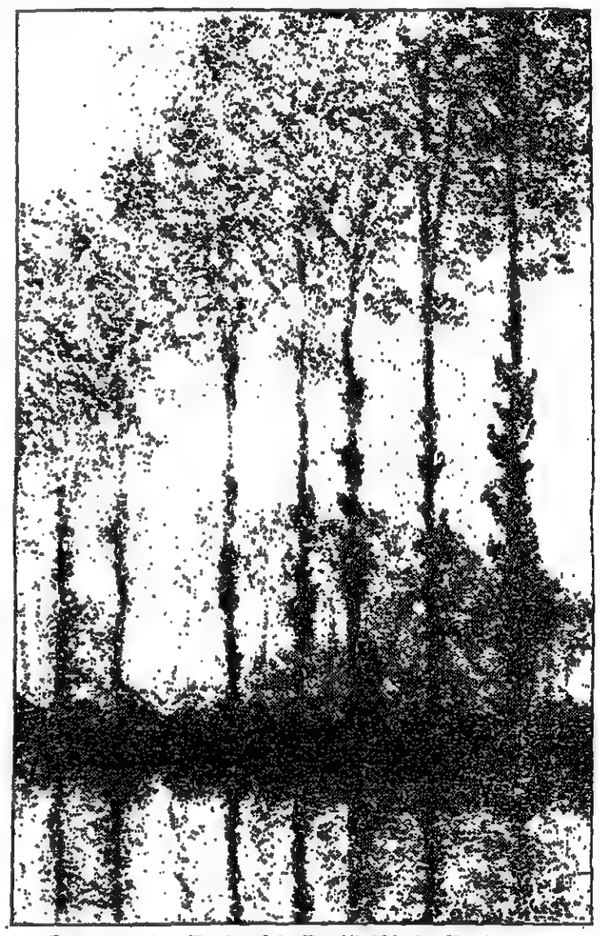
The basic complaint is that the writers, however and whenever they visited the show, were not able to see the pictures in conditions they felt their entrance fee should have entitled them to. For some the problem was the crowds, which meant they could hardly see the pictures at all. For others it was the speed with which the crowd surged irresistibly from room to room, so that all opportunities of lengthy communing with genius were denied. For yet others it was the way the pictures were hung, too low to be seen over the heads of the crowds; they pointed out that in America, where the Monet exhibition was seen in Chicago and Boston, the paintings were hung much higher, thus keeping sight-lines clear for everyone.

Many American museums also have the advantage of size, with larger galleries for display and larger public spaces to accommodate waiting crowds. New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, for instance, uses advance ticket sales only when necessary but prefers to operate on a first-come, first-served basis.

"We regulate the crowd flow into exhibition spaces because we're worried about security, about the safety of the works on display and about crowd comfort," says John Ross, the museum's manager of public information. "But it's simpler for us logistically as our museum is extremely large. If we have a few hundred people waiting, they'll be inside out of the weather."

Furthermore, says Ross, "we hang pictures very high here, higher than you would hang them in your own house and higher than a number of other museums. And sometimes we move works of art to ease congestion. I have been to many exhibitions in London where it's truly crowded. We don't allow that kind of crowding. We prefer to maintain the viewing experience as a pleasant one."

For its part, the Royal Academy is now answering the criticisms of the Monet exhibition. Roger de Grey, academy president, points out that many critics in America did not like the height of the paintings. De Grey, as a distinguished landscape painter himself, argues that the horizon in a landscape should not be far from the spectator's eye level, and believes that if the Monets had been so high in London, they would have been unreadable.



Draw: "Poplars (Banks of the Epte)", 1891 by Claude Monet

More difficult is the matter of crowding. One of the purposes of introducing timed ticketing for this show was to enable the numbers to be regulated. The academy decided on 600 as the maximum number to be allowed into the show at any one time: the show occupied six galleries, including one of double size, which works out at fewer than a hundred people to each gallery, not an unreasonable total.

The academy admits that there were teething troubles over the pre-sold tickets, but thinks they were sorted out early on in the exhibition's run. The academy is proud of the fact that no one who did queue was turned away. The basic problem, according to de Grey, remains the paradox that people feel entitled simultaneously to complain about public apathy towards the arts on one hand and to complain about the side-effects of public enthusiasm on the other.

There may also be a bit of sour grapes, since usually the money made by the academy comes into play somewhere. As to that, de Grey says "we got more than half a million people through the show, far more than in either of the American venues. We did not put up the price of admission extravagantly. And finally it enabled us to pay off our overdraft. It is not exactly a fortune for us, though certainly useful. And most visitors, whatever their minor complaints, seem to have felt it was the experience of a lifetime. That can hardly be bad."

RECORDS & VIDEOS: ROCK & JAZZ

Bleeps and squirts

Unique 3: Jus' Unique (10 Records DIXG 98)
Various: Biorhythm 2 (Network BIOLB 2)

1990 WAS the year in which the government finally defined popular music. The definition, drafted in order to clarify franchise bidding for new radio channels, may prove to be a boon to us all. Now that we know what it is, we must also know what it is not.

Bleep music, for example – one of the crazes of the past 12 months – shares much in common with music once termed avant garde. Mostly emanating from North of Watford, bleep music deals in extremes. Electronic squirts and beeps comparable to the vocabulary of a state of the art telephone, are laid over hyper-active rhythm tracks and bass-lines so deep in pitch that they are almost inaudible; subtract that rhythm and what remains bears a strong resemblance to the sort of tape music once appreciated by a handful of pioneers.

Unique 3, a group with four or more members, hails from Bradford. Their bleeps have been in circulation for some time now and the group has already decided that bleeping has become redundant. This is a revolution of personal computers, relatively cheap software and versatile digital samplers installed in bedrooms; overheads are low, flexibility is high and the drive to innovate and then move on is relentless. In some respects, this brutal creative turnover has its drawbacks. Perhaps influenced by the virtually instantaneous obsolescence of the new technology, imaginative ideas are discarded as soon as they emerge from the underground into the mainstream.

Unique 3's two-record set tends to be more engaging when perched on the outer limits of pop; a reggae track, "Reality", has an oblique charm, at least for half of its length, thanks to a constant flypast of eccentric musical inserts, but the science-fiction instrumentals such as "Phase 3" and "Code 0274" stand out as aural, somewhat unco-ordinated, evocations of fax machines and supermarket cash registers at play. Following the instructions on the record, I played the latter track at 33⅓ rpm and found it to be at the wrong speed. The music has a tension and sensuality that is lost at its correct speed and so I shall continue to ignore Unique 3's intentions. This sort of choice will be lost, incidentally, when vinyl is completely superseded by compact disc and tape.

The music may sound like electronic tills and bar codes readers but its ethos is puritanically non-commercial. Birmingham's Network Records specialises in electronic dance music, whether from Detroit or Sheffield, and has flourished with a release schedule that would have looked suicidally arcane just a few years ago. Itel's **Biorhythm 2** is a collection of fairly typical material. The closest thing to a lyric is the brief speech fragment on Model 500's "Info World"; otherwise, this is music as pure sound, portraying nothing beyond a global computer network humming with activity.

DAVID TOOP

Miles Davis: Miles in Paris (Warner Music Vision 9031-71550-3).
Frank Sinatra: The Reprise Collection (Reprise 9-26340-2)

IF ONE moment sums up the lackadaisical quality of Miles Davis's current work, it comes some 50 minutes into his new video. As he crouches over his horn in mid-phrase on "Tutu", his designer sunglasses fall off.

There is an awkward pause. Guitarist Foley McCreary performs a neat catch and hands the spectacles back to Davis, who then saunters off towards the drum kit. No matter that he has not finished his solo. The music comes second to the fashion accessories.

The trumpeter has not released a live album since 1983. For those who need it, *Miles in Paris* fills the gap. Recorded in November of last year, the video sprinkles nine tunes amidst brief and largely unrevealing extracts from an interview.

Watching a video is the best way to catch Davis's concerts. The fast-forward button is a valuable antidote to the axe-hero antics of McCreary and the bland keyboards of Kei Akagi. Davis looks fit and healthy, but his embouchure is in only moderate shape. Once again, he rarely risks playing without his mute; the few solos played on open horn are alarmingly limp.

Unique 3: The number changes, but never less than a quartet

"Human Nature" and "New Blues" are wheeled out once again. The rest of the material is the most accessible music that Davis has played in a decade, and easily the least interesting. Judging by the evidence on this video, however, the audiences seem larger and more enthusiastic than ever.

While one or two bruised paparazzi might disagree, Frank Sinatra has been rather more successful than Davis at growing old gracefully. Containing four compact discs, the Reprise set documents his progress from 1960 to 1984.

Taken as a whole, the Capitol recordings of the Fifties remain the pinnacle of Sinatra's career. Yet the 81 tracks in this new collection – eight of them previously unissued – are proof that Sinatra was capable of sublime displays even as late as the mid-Seventies.

Highlights are too numerous to list, though the 1964 meeting with Count Basie on "The Best is Yet to Come" deserves special mention. From roughly the same period, the syrupy bossa nova arrangements of Claus Ogerman also have their admirers. And there is no avoiding the torch song which began life as "Comme d'Habitude".

CLIVE DAVIS

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Christmas humbug, ancient and modern

The anonymous programme note for the Christmas concert on Wednesday in the Wigmore Hall suggested that nowadays we find it "difficult to appreciate the inextricable blend of sacred and secular passions in the 16th and 17th centuries", and yet surely the whole idea of the Christmas concert shows we have no such difficulty at all. Twice in the past week large audiences have piled into the hall to hear sacred and secular passions inextricably blended, in retellings of the Nativity story through the music of Marc-Antoine Charpentier and through readings and verse anthems of the Elizabethan-Jacobean period. When we can have concerts of Christmas music in July, then will be the time to talk about "our own secular society".

The Charpentier evening was in the care of William Christie and Les Arts Florissants, and was therefore a delight, the voices fresh-textured, with minimal vibrato and the extra brightness of Latin vowels sung (apparently authentically) as if they were French, the instruments light and clear. It is perhaps the performers' pliancy that enables them to recreate this music of ornament without letting all the graces impede melodic flow or sound fussy. This is a very particular, even a very constrained repertory, but these musicians perform it with immediacy and naturalness, as if speaking their own language.

It is a language with a high quotient of charm, though not always. The set of Advent antiphons, wisely interspersed here with Charpentier's instrumental arrangements of Christmas carols, include darker moments, besides taking the opportunity to show how changes can be rung on the same pattern of slow invoking followed by fast, triple-time expectation. There was also a flame-pure interpretation by a solo soprano of the elevation motet *Lauda Sion salvatorem* and a perky account of a miniature Epiphany drama in the oratorio *Cum natus esset Jesus in Bethleem*.

The biggest work was the *Pastorale sur la Naissance de Notre Seigneur Jésus Christ*, in which Charpentier's treatment of the Christmas story is not notably different from his handling of the myth of Actaeon: this is a frieze of beautifully executed moments in which strange, but not terribly alarming, things happen between divine and human beings in an Arcadian landscape. Yet for all the sweetness and perfect etiquette, a kind of piety comes through, and this beautiful performance several times jolted one into remembering Messiaen.

Where Charpentier and Les Arts Florissants offered an aristocratic, classical Christmas, the seasonal feeling was altogether more homely and earthy with Red Byrd, who are not a Trotskyite rock band but a vocal ensemble willing to tackle new music as well as Monteverdi or, as here, English verse anthems. They make a point of striving for period pronunciation, which seems to mean a range of open vowels, split diphthongs and dense consonants, sounding like a mosaic of West Country, Tyneside, Highlands, Irish and Canadian accents. Used as a spoken language, this can be persuasive: Richard Wistreich was particularly powerful in his pair of readings from a pre-King James text, the "Bishops' Bible".

But when it is sung, particularly by voices again avoiding vibrato (and by voices, in some cases, of no special finesse), one registers the effect as folk singing, and all kinds of consideration concerning class and tradition enter the debate along with historical accuracy and aesthetic rightness. It was good to hear Tomkins, Bull and Gibbons released from the usual cultivated tones, but not easy to know why it was good: the justification ought to be more than a variety of inverted snobbery. No worries, though, about the Rose Consort of Viols, with whose polyphonic clarity and superb grainy finish the raw voices of Red Byrd sounded suprisingly well.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

DANCE

Another bright star alights from the east

Soviet dancers find new artistic horizons in the West, says Yelena Pankova of the Kirov Ballet. Interview by Debra Craine

In 1961, when Rudolf Nureyev came West, he had to leap across a Paris airport barrier to seek political asylum. In 1970, in order to remain in the West, Natalia Makarova had to defect during the Kirov's London season. Four years later, Mikhail Baryshnikov had to outwit his KGB minders during a Soviet tour to Canada. Today all a Soviet dancer needs is a valid passport; the invitations to dance in the West are there to be had.

With glasnost having opened the floodgates, Soviet dancers are pouring across the border, seeking fresh artistic horizons with Western companies. Recent migrations include Irek Mukhamedov, the ex-Bolshoi star who has joined the Royal Ballet as a principal dancer; Nina Ananiashvili, Altynai Asylmuratova and Alexei Fadeyechev are also appearing at Covent Garden, as guest artists. Scottish Ballet, too, has just announced that the Kirov's Galina Mezentseva is joining the Glasgow company as a principal dancer, while another Kirov dancer, Irina Chistiakova, is with London City Ballet, guesting in the title role of *Cinderella* at Sadler's Wells (London City Ballet already has two ex-Bolshoi principal dancers, Viktor Barykin and Stanislav Tchassov).

"The world is flooded with Russian dancers," says Ivan Nagy, artistic director of English National Ballet, who has recently signed the Estonian couple of Agnes Oaks and Thomas Edur as full-time members of his company. "It's not anymore a unique thing, getting hold of a Russian dancer. I have lots of Russians auditioning for me. You have no idea – more Russians than English dancers, practically."

With so much Soviet talent to choose from, a Western ballet director can be especially selective, but certainly most would leap at the chance – as Nagy has done – to have Yelena Pankova in their midst. Tomorrow night at the Festival Hall, the Kirov dancer adds her name to the list of Soviets abroad when she makes her debut with ENB, dancing the Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*.

At 27, Pankova is one of the brightest stars in the Kirov's galaxy, her extraordinary lightness and delicacy embodying the essential characteristics of the Kirov style: lyricism, musicality and a beautifully expressive upper body. Ever since her first performances in the West with the Kirov in 1987, she has been delighting critics and audiences alike.

One could wish for a more auspicious debut for her than Peter Schaufuss's muddled version of *The Nutcracker*, but if Nagy has his way, Pankova will be back. Despite the fact that he had never seen her on stage, Nagy was prepared to invite the Kirov dancer to be a resident guest artist on the basis of an audition. When he finally did see her on stage, he "loved her. I thought her performance was wonderful. She's very striking on stage. I love her proportion. I'm very happy she's in the company and I'm hoping we can come up with a repertoire that will interest her."

For the time being, Pankova will have to be satisfied with *The Nutcracker*, but since the Kirov does not have Tchaikovsky's Christmas classic in its repertoire, this will be her first appearance in the ballet. "I always dreamt about dancing *The Nutcracker* because of the music which is played as an orchestral suite in the Soviet Union," says Pankova, speaking through an interpreter.

"But for me, to dance one pas de deux in a whole evening is not enough dancing. As a spectator I love the performance as a whole, but as a performer I wish I could have more steps."

Nonetheless, dancing abroad for the first time as a guest artist allows Pankova to "learn new steps, new repertoire. I can see other dancers, learn from them". Exchange between theatres in the Soviet Union is almost unknown so dancers who remain in the country have little chance to experience other companies. "I think it's impossible to have a closed mind in dance," Pankova says. "The Vaganova [Kirov] school is wonderful, but you still need feedback from other dancers in other places."

As the Soviet government eases up on foreign travel restrictions, more dancers are free to tour abroad. "Before glasnost, there was a commission of party members who asked political questions of the dancers before they were allowed to go on tour," she says. "Now there is no commission."

Pankova, now in her tenth season with the Leningrad-based company, would like to work more as a guest artist outside the Soviet Union, but "my basic work is with the Kirov. I'd like to remain as a guest artist only on a temporary basis when I'm invited. Three months would be fine; longer and they would fire me."

Part of the reason some dancers leave the Soviet Union on a permanent basis is simply to escape the rigours of daily life there. As a privileged member of the Kirov company, Pankova's lifestyle is better than most. But still the economic problems are felt.

"It's worse than it was," she says. "In Leningrad, it's very bad, the food situation. Dancers are better paid in the Soviet Union so we have more money, but food is rationed for everyone." If she brings food home, she adds, it will be to show her family what edible riches are available here.

● Yelena Pankova *stars in* The Nutcracker *tomorrow night at the Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800)*

STEPHEN MARKESON

Yelena Pankova: "The Vaganova school is wonderful, but you still need feedback from other dancers in other places."

ARTS FUNDING

Speedy enhancing or quick tarnish?

Simon Tait asks the Arts Council's secretary general to explain the funding decisions announced earlier this week

Philip Hedley, director of the Theatre Royal Stratford East, was one of many to express bemusement this week. "I'd love to know where they plucked that figure from," he said, on hearing that his theatre will be receiving £75,000 for each of the next three years from the Arts Council's new £22.5 million enhancement fund.

The plucking process, both of beneficiaries and of amounts, was "hasty", said other observers. Some also found it arbitrary, or downright inexplicable. But "speedy" is the word preferred by Anthony Everitt, the council's secretary general.

The enhancement fund was introduced on November 9 by David Mellor, then the arts minister. It would operate in addition to the Arts Council's main fund, help arts organisations tackle financial difficulties and "maintain the excellence of their work". Everitt and Peter Palumbo, the chairman, were told to draw up objectives and criteria for enhancement. The formula Mellor approved was that grants should go to the best organisations in terms of artistic excellence, and should be available, over three years, to enhance business and financial planning. There should also be a challenge "where appropriate" for matching funds from other sectors: private, endowment or local authority.

The Arts Council departments and the 12 regional arts associations were given just two weeks to come up with recommendations. They offered 142. On December 10 a think tank of five, including Everitt and two Arts Council members, halved the list and divided it into three sections: 43 clients whose quality and needs were such that they must benefit; those that were "excellent and deserving but not in the first order of need" (both the National Theatre and South Bank Centre were in this category, says Everitt); and rejects.

"It's not true to say that we've focused on flagships," says Everitt. "The list is a mix of community work and teaching. But inevitably, because the bigger clients cost more, they need more if the enhancement is going to work. There are dance companies such as Kokuma and the Green Candle community company, touring theatre companies such as Talawa, and the biggest poetry group, Bloodaxe, from the north-east on it."

The South Bank gave the biggest howl of indignation. According to Everitt, it was not on the list because its plan showed that it was already going to get itself out of financial difficulties without compromising its artistic programme.

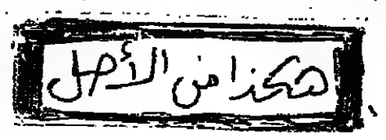
Everitt admits that the Arts Council has not been doing its job properly in the past. "Maybe the Arts Council was wrong in the Seventies and Eighties in not making choices, spreading the butter too thinly. What the Arts Council has to do is make judgements."

As to the need to match this extra money with other funding, only ten of the 45 are being issued with a "hard" challenge: they must get the same amount from elsewhere or they get nothing from the fund. However, the scheme might again fuel fears among leading business sponsors that their sponsorship was being used to replace, rather than supplement, state subsidy. There is also confusion about what will happen at the end of the three years. Although the intention is that the enhancements become consolidated into the revenue funding, that leaves the question of whether matching funds also get consolidated.

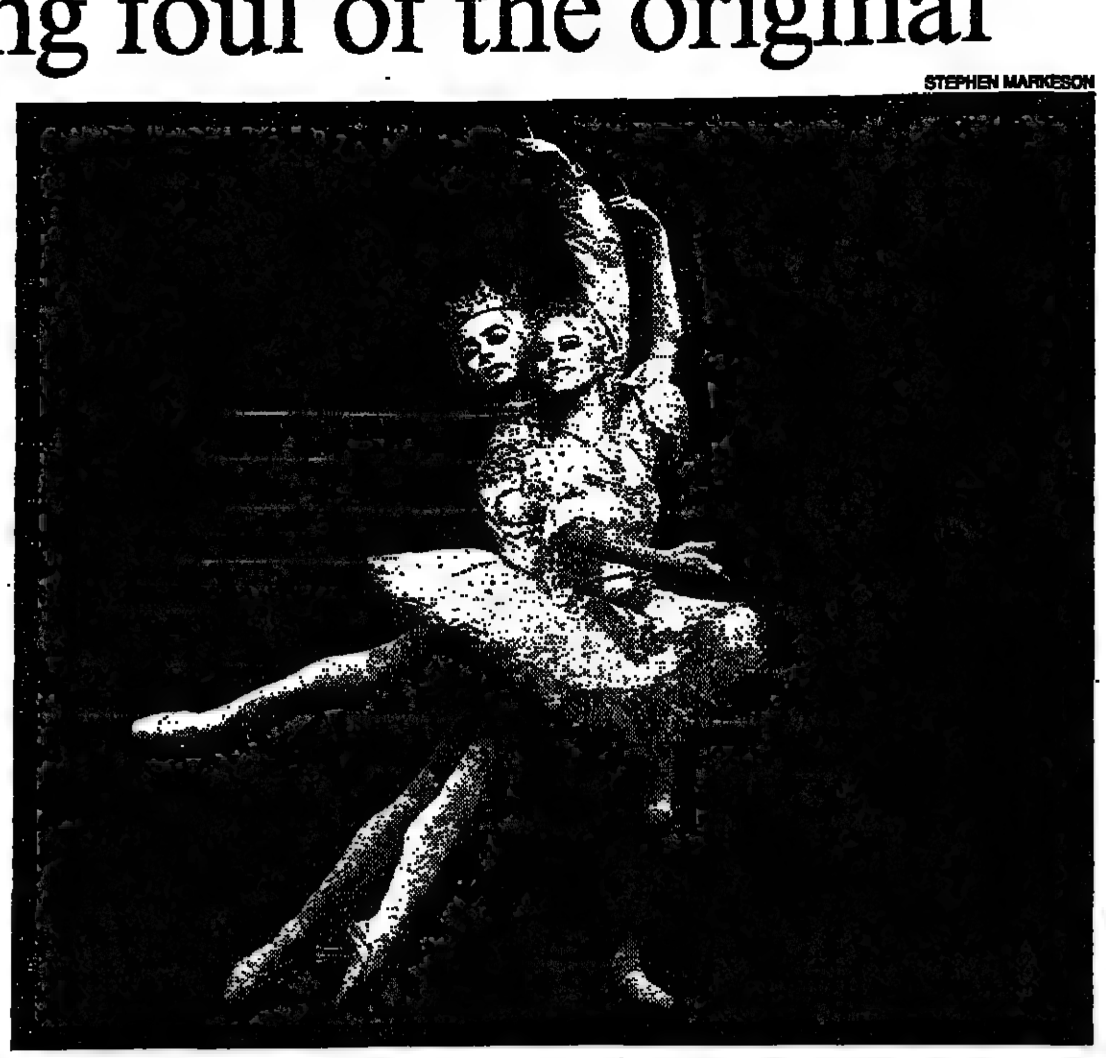
● **Welsh National Opera** has said it will cease operating after next July, if it receives no increase in its funding from the Arts Council. The company was expecting to receive a total grant of around £500,000 from the council's enhancement fund, but was not even among the 45 companies chosen for the fund. Opera North received £685,000 from the enhancement fund; English National Opera received £600,000.

Although it is receiving £175,000 from the enhancement fund's allocation to the Welsh Arts Council, WNO maintains that, since it does 70 per cent of its touring in England, it should have been given an additional allocation, in its own right.

A company spokesman said that there would now be a gap of £325,000 in WNO's 1991-92 budget. If further negotiations with the Arts Council did not produce an increase in funding, a meeting on January 21 of the finance committee of WNO's board would recommend that the company closes in July.



Falling foul of the original


STEPHEN MARKESON

Viviana Durante as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Bruce Sansom as the Prince in *The Nutcracker*

DANCE

The Nutcracker
Covent Garden

THE first of this season's many *Nutcracker* productions is a revival of Peter Wright's staging for the Royal Ballet. This is the one that tries to reproduce as much as possible of the original choreography by Ivanov, but fits it *to an opaque new libretto.*

By rights, it should be the one with the best playing of the Tchaikovsky score, but I sincerely hope this will not prove to be the case. However, I trust that during the run, the noisy, muddled scene changes, the disastrous lighting and the botched stage tricks will be put right, although I fear that Julia Trevelyan Oman's drab designs (so completely out of touch with the music) are past praying for.

Thanks largely to the costumes, nobody except the principals has any chance to stand out (although David Bintley's Drosselmeyer, at the matinée, was coolly incisive).

Two couples appeared *at* yesterday's performances. Viviana Durante and Bruce Sansom made their debuts at the matinée. They let the difficulties of the partnering show, although they surmounted most of them. The Prince's solo suits Sansom's neat, precise style; Durante copes well with the Sugar Plum Fairy's solo, but she is less at home in this than in a role with drama and characterisation.

I had expected that to be true also of Irek Mukhamedov, making his first appearance as the Prince in the evening, but he and Lesley Collier approached their *pas de deux* in a way that brought out the depth of Tchaikovsky's music, as well as its glitter, and they shaped their dancing with a combination of grandeur and radiance.

Mukhamedov dances a different version of the solo: at least partly derived from Vainonen's Soviet production, with fewer, bigger steps, which enables him to present himself more classically than in other Covent Garden roles. But (as in *La Bayadère*), it is the conjunction of him and Collier that produces the full effect: two artists who, from different sources, understand the classical tradition and can make it live today.

JOHN PERCIVAL

THEATRE

The Horse and his Boy
Lyric, Hammersmith

ONE of the two adaptations of C.S. Lewis's Narnia novels currently playing in Hammersmith, *The Horse and His Boy* is an altogether more handsome production than its tour-worn companion piece. Evocative lighting (Dave Horn) makes the most of Simon Ash's settings, infinitely better at suggesting oriental splendour — from distant mountain tops to carpet selling kiosks — than the perpetual winter of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. The costumes by Mark Bailey provide sumptuous spangly sparkle.

This is the story with a dash of Araby, featuring talking horses, a runaway noble woman, fiendish Eastern aggression and a fisher-lad who turns out to be a long-lost prince. Shasta was found on the seashore as a baby and brought up by an old fisherman whose more distressing characteristics include his beard's tendency to slip down round his neck like a woolly muffler in moments of high excitement. No wonder he enviously salaams haughty Prince Rabadash whose appendage projects undislodgably from his chin like a strip of red fly paper. And no wonder they worship the great God Tash.

The two Steeds are beautifully stylised (horse heads and tights, as from a decorative version of *Equus*). If the baddies are near-Eastern, the goodies are vaguely Austro-Hungarian in uniform and Welsh in accent, except for Queen Susan whose barely thigh-covering gymslip seems aimed at the older members of the audience.

In the interval, flouting the rigid etiquette of his profession, your critic consulted his expert companions. Amelia, aged 10, wondered whether those unfamiliar with the book would be able to follow the plot. Florence, 13 next week, dismissively announced that television was better anyway. Thomas, at 15 a bit old for the story but an enthusiastic backstage worker in school theatricals, worried about the validity of the Christian symbolism in the Lion and Aslan.

Certainly there are arid patches of talk in Richard Williams's production and the stylised battle may not satisfy a generation reared on more explicit violence, but there are spirited performances from Felicity Duncan (the runaway) and Kieron Smith (Shasta). By the final curtain, the panel of experts professed satisfaction.

MARTIN HOYLE

THEATRE

Reduced Shakespeare Company
Lilian Baylis

THIS caper is something of an old con. The RSC, as the company's three American performers naturally called themselves, promise to present all 37 of the Bard's plays in an hour and a half.

What the lads could have achieved in this line is suggested by their *Julius Caesar*. On strides the balding, though young, Reed Martin wearing something that could be a toga enveloped in a cloak. Adam Long warns him of the Ides of March. Caesar looks puzzled; the date is explained; "But that's today!" and Caesar collapses with swords stuck under his armpits. All this sketch needs is someone to have a go at burying the body — Antony's opening line is well enough known for that — and five tragic acts are reduced to one minute of *BC44 And All That*, applying the principle Sellar and Yeatman devised for history: Literature is what you can remember.

But Long, Martin and their bearded colleague Jess Borgeson use their razor on only one other play, *Titus Androgynous*, done quite nimbly as a cookery show; and the feeble pun, applicable to *other plays but not to this, reveals* their scattergun approach. All the comedies get shoved together in a recitation of a crazy plot concerning shipwrecked identical triplets in a wood that is content merely to squash the titles together. Pretending that Chekhov wrote *The Seagull's Three Uncles in an Orchard* might raise a faint smile but no more.

Performances naturally adopt the Coarse Acting style, slapping the chest for each mention of "love", thrusting the pelvis for "loins", reining back a horse for "woe" (geddit?). Brilliant spoof Shakespeare has been written by Frayn, Stoppard and Miles Kington, but this RSC effort is nowhere in that class.

The last half-hour is devoted to *Hamlet*, and there is a sort of crazy satisfaction to be derived from the scene where the audience is divided into three for a workshop to motivate Ophelia's mad scream. One section shouts: "Get thee to a nunnery!", another, "Paint an inch thick!", while the third yells "Cut the crap, Hamlet, my biological clock is ticking, and I want babies NOW!"

At some point, Borgeson tells a whingeing Long, "We don't have to do justice to it, we just have to do it." Untrue.

JEREMY KINGSTON

ROCK

Hothouse Flowers
Wembley Arena

THE original members of Hothouse Flowers used to earn their keep busking on the pavements of Dublin, which may explain why they look more comfortable than most on the expanse of stage at Wembley Arena. Having learnt to perform in a tight huddle, nowadays the five of them seem to enjoy keeping their distance from one another, perhaps because it smacks of success.

Hence, lead singer Liam O' Maonlai, who had access to a grand piano stage-centre and an electric one up behind his bass player, also paid visits to keyboards situated on raised podiums stage left and right. In terms of pure topography, the ground he had to cover to get to one of these outposts was the equivalent of transplanting himself to the next-door busking site. It would have come as no great surprise if a portable keyboard had cropped up at the mid-auditorium mixing desk.

Having literally covered a lot of ground since their days on the street, Hothouse Flowers have also come a long way musically. Buskers, after all, do not play big-venue rock, though in remembering their humble folk roots the band produce an unusually acceptable version of it, and help to keep the look of minstrels by their clothes baggy and their hair shaggy. Unlike their more deracinated musical cousins, U2, Hothouse Flowers retain the hint of a rascally Poguish beat in their more pumped-up stadium stompers such as "Giving it all away" and "People".

O'Maonlai's Irish voice combines the beef of Bono with the quivering frailty of Feargal Sharkey, and adapted easily to the mixed repertoire, though a boisterous audience did seem occasionally confused by the musical mixture on offer. When the singer began a long encore with an unaccompanied bilingual rendition of "Carrickfergus", a traditional Irish ballad and a tricky tune to carry towards the end of a rock show, he was obliged to introduce a distinctly unGaelic shushing sound into the lyrics to attract full attention.

This was less necessary in the band's own slow numbers, the likes of "Sweet Marie" and "Don't Go": dreamy songs which could be accused of taking themselves too seriously, if their audience did not take them seriously, too. By the end of a two-hour show, which is good going for a two-album band, they were more than entitled to make all the noise they could muster.

JASPER REES

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (*where indicated with the symbol* ◆) on release across the country.

CURRENT

◆ AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE (15): Jane Campion's excellent film about the New Zealand writer Janet Frame.
Renoir (071-837 8402).

◆ BLUE STEEL (18): Tough, blood-spattered police thriller with a feminist slant from director Kathryn Bigelow.
Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Mezzanine (071-930 6111).

COME SEE THE PARADISE (15): Alan Parker's romantic drama about the American *treatment of the Japanese after Pearl* Harbor; handsomely mounted.
Odeon Haymarket (071-839 7697).

THE COMFORT OF STRANGERS (18): Rupert Everett and Natasha Richardson mooching around Venice, falling prey to the warped Christopher Walken. Laborious psychological drama.
Curzon Mayfair (071-499 3737).

◆ DEATH WARRANT (18): Action video king Jean-Claude van Damme as an undercover cop in prison. Bloodthirsty exploitation drama; director, Deran Sarafian.
Cannons: Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Panton Street (071-930 0631).

◆ FLATLINERS (15): Kiefer Sutherland, Julia Roberts and Kevin Bacon as medical students probing the boundaries between death and life. Director, Joel Schumacher.
Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 8861) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644) Mezzanine *(071-930 6111) Swiss Cottage* (0426 914 098) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ THE FRESHMAN (PG): Quirky, uneven spoof of The Godfather, with Marlon Brando as the mobster who hires a New York film student (Matthew Broderick) as a delivery-boy. Writer-director, Andrew Bergman.
Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Mezzanine (071-930 6111).

◆ GHOST (12): Jerry Zucker's supernatural thriller. Bizarre, incoherent, but absorbing while it lasts.
Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Empire (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ GOODFELLAS (18): Martin Scorsese's gangster epic following a New York hoodlum's rise and fall. With Robert De Niro.
Cannon Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Curzon West End (071-439 4805) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ HENRY AND JUNE (18): Anais Nin's *passionate affair with Henry Miller in bohemian* Paris recreated with a grandiose flair by director Philip Kaufman.
Cannon Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Empire (071-497 9999) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ HOME ALONE (PG): Plucky kid left alone at Christmas wards off bumbling burglars. Broad, *machine-tooled American* family fun from writer-producer John Hughes. A big US hit.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Mezzanine (071-930 6111) Warner (071-439 0791) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ THE HOT SPOT (18): Raging sexual fires and duplicity in a lazy Texas town, deliciously evoked by director Dennis Hopper. Don Johnson as the drifter who unearths a hornet's nest.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Prince Charles (071-437 8181).

THE ICICLE THIEF (PG): Gently engaging comedy satirising Italian neo-realism and the screening of films on television. Written and directed by, and starring, Maurizio Nichetti — an Italian comic hugely popular *on his home turf.*
Metro (071-437 0757).

◆ THE LITTLE MERMAID (U): Disney's much-touted version of Hans Christian Andersen's fantasy.
Odeons: Haymarket (071-839 7697) Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Warner (071-439 0791) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

METROPOLITAN (15): Whit Stillman's wickedly ironic comedy of manners set among New York's debutantes and preppies over one Christmas holiday. Witty dialogue, engaging young actors, elegant direction.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Lumière (071-836 0691) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366).

THE MUSIC TEACHER (U): Belgian tale of a retired opera singer (José van Dam) training two new apprentices for a competition. Prettily mounted, but wearisomely genteel. Director, Gérard Corbiau.
Minema (071-235 4225).

◆ THE NEVERENDING STORY PART 2 (U): A return visit to the land of Fantasia. Visually spectacular, but the plot is a jumble and an unlikeable child actor, Jonathan Brandis, spoils some of the fun.
Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Warner (071-439 0791) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ PRESUMED INNOCENT (15): Alan J. Pakula's riveting, thoughtful version of Scott Turow's bestseller, with Harrison Ford and Greta Scacchi.
Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Panton Street (071-930 0631) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Warner (071-439 0791) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

THE SHELTERING SKY (18): A chilling *novel (by Paul Bowles)* filmed with a warming visual sweep by Bernardo Bertolucci with John Malkovich and Debra Winger.
Odeon Leicester Square (071-930 6111).

◆ TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES (PG): Noisy, charmless feature-length advert for the new pop culture fad.
Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (0426 914 098) West End (071-930 5252/7615) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

THREE SISTERS (12): Chekhov updated to an Italian university town in the 1980s. Sparks fly from all three actresses (Fanny Ardant, Greta Scacchi, Valeria Golino), yet the film stays in low gear. Director, Margarethe von Trotta.
Premiere (071-439 4470).

TIME OF THE GYPSIES (15): Noisy account of Yugoslav gypsy youngsters conscripted into an army of thieves. Dazzling set-pieces, but the disjointed narrative saps the film's energy.
Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) Chelsea Cinema (071-351 3742).

VAMPIRE'S KISS (18): Woman bites Manhattan literary agent; agent becomes vampire. Awkward mix of horror, comedy and psychological drama, with Nicolas Cage, Jennifer Beals; director, Robert Bierman.
Cannons: Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Panton Street (071-930 0631).

◆ WILD AT HEART (18): David Lynch's *rollicking tale of psychotic evil and sexual* passion rampaging through America's heartland; the same ingredients as *Blue Velvet*, though the results are far more inconsequential. Starring Nicolas Cage, Laura Dern.
Cannon Piccadilly (071-437 3561) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772).

A WORLD WITHOUT PITY (15): Life and loves of a Parisian layabout; a promising debut by young French director Eric Rochant, with disarming performances (Hippolyte Girardot, Mireille Perrier).
Renoir (071-837 8402).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London
■ House full, returns only
☒ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ BOOKENDS: Disappointingly empty tale of two literary blokes: Michael Hordern and Dinsdale Landen try to find some content. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-437 2663). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs. Ends January 12.

☐ THE BOYS NEXT DOOR: Tom Griffin's patronising view of the mentally ill-adjusted. Fine acting, with Steve Guttenberg. Transfer from Hampstead. Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, SW1 (071-867 1045). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Fri, Sat, 5.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 10mins. Ends December 29.

☐ THE COUNTRY WIFE: Appallingly heavy-handed, old fashioned production, though Fenella Fielding has her stylish moments. Mermaid, Puddle Dock, EC4 (071-410 0000). Underground: Blackfriars. Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 3hrs.

☒ DANCING AT LUGHNASA: Brian Friel's hauntingly beautiful memory play that brings Donegal Catholic prudery up against pagan ecstasy. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Underground/BR: Waterloo. Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat tomorrow, 2.15pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

■ FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE: Marvellous jazzy revue packed with Louis Jordan numbers. An evening of joy. Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-437 3686). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm. Running time: 1hr 45mins.

☒ GASPING: John Gordon Sinclair and Jim Carter in Ben Elton's greenish comedy. Rather over the top but lots of laughs. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins. Ends February 9.

☐ HIDDEN LAUGHTER: Hannah Gordon (her first week) and Peter Barkworth in Simon Gray's thought-provoking play. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). Underground: Charing Cross. Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins.

☒ INTO THE WOODS: Sondheim's witty mix of fairytales; grimmer than Grimm in the first half, turns gloomy thereafter. Phoenix, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-240 9661). Underground: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 50mins.

☐ THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP: Spoof Gothic melodrama, ranging between the farcically funny and the feebly frantic. Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (071-836 6111). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs. Ends January 5.

☐ NO ONE SEES THE VIDEO: Celia Imrie, Stephen Tompkinson in Martin Crimp's well-informed if patchy glimpse at the moral voids in market research. Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 2554). Underground: Sloane Square. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3.30pm. Running time: 2hrs. Ends tomorrow.

☐ OUT OF ORDER: Donald Sinden puffs, Michael Williams panics, in latest Ray Cooney farce: over-plotted, under-developed. Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Underground: Holborn. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins.

☒ PIANO: Awkward but highly watchable extension by Trevor Griffiths of Chekhovian themes and characters. National (Cottesloe) (as left). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat tomorrow, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 10mins.

☐ PRIVATE LIVES: Keith Baxter, Joan Collins and Sara Crowe in Coward's comedy. Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Underground: Covent Garden. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins. Ends January 26.

☒ THE REHEARSAL: Ian McDiarmid's stylish production (costumes by Jasper Conran) of Anouilh's seduction play. Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-379 6107). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Tues, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

☐ THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW: Raucous and wild, bold and bizarre; sometimes deafening rock musical. Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs, 9pm, Fri, Sat, 7pm and 9.15pm. Running time: 1hr 30mins.

☐ SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE: Alan Howard and Penny Downie in Bergman's two-hander: disappointingly slack after its transfer from Chichester. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). *Underground: Leicester* Square. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 20mins. Ends January 26.

■ THREE SISTERS: Three Redgraves in admirable if over-busy production: Vanessa and Lynn outstanding as the older girls. Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-734 1166). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

☒ TIME AND THE CONWAYS: Joan Plowright and lots of other Oliviers in Priestley's dullish play, set in 1919 (twice) and 1938. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (071-928 7616). *Underground: Waterloo.* Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 35mins.

☒ WHAT THE BUTLER SAW: Incest, assault and bisexual parleying preserved in the aspic of Joe Orton's wit. Not quite a top-class production but well worth seeing. Hampstead, Avenue Road, NW3 (071-722 9301). Underground: Swiss Cottage. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs.

■ THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS: Alan Bennett's enchanting new version, with jolly sets popping up on the revolve, with Griff Rhys Jones, Richard Briers and all. National (Olivier) (as left). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.15pm, mat tomorrow, 2pm. Running time: 2hrs 40mins.

LONG RUNNERS: ☐ Absurd Person Singular: Whitehall (071-867 1119) . . . ■ Aspects of Love: Prince of Wales (071-839 5972) . . . ☒ Blood Brothers: Albery (071-867 1115) . . . ☒ Buddy: Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . . . ■ Cats: New London (071-405 0072) . . . ☐ Man of the Moment: Globe (071-437 3667) . . . ☒ Me and My Girl: Adelphi (071-836 7611) . . . ■ Les Misérables: Palace (071-434 0909) . . . ■ Miss Saigon: (postal bookings only) Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-836 8108) . . . ☐ The Mousetrap: St Martin's (071-836 1443) . . . ■ The Phantom of the Opera: (postal bookings only) Her Majesty's (071-839 2244) . . . ■ Return to the Forbidden Planet: Cambridge (071-379 5299) . . . ☐ Run For Your Wife: Duchess (071-836 8243) . . . ☐ Shirley Valentine: Duke of York's (071-836 5122) . . . ☐ A Slice of Saturday Night: Arts (071-836 2132) . . . ☒ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) . . . ☒ The Woman in Black: Fortune (071-836 2238).

Ticket information on member theatres supplied by Society of West End Theatre

TODAY'S EVENTS

THE NUTCRACKER: Three familiar stagings are revived this week: Peter Wright's Covent Garden version for the Royal Ballet, with Christina Johnson and Ronald Perry in the leads tonight; Peter Schaufuss's production for English National Ballet, with resident guest artist Gregory Osborne dancing opposite Andria Hall; and Peter Darrell's version for Scottish Ballet, with dancers Robert Hampton and Noriko Ohara.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066/1911), 7.30pm.
Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), 7.30pm.
Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041-332 9000), 7.15pm.

CINDERELLA: The London City Ballet has wisely chosen an alternative Christmas entertainment for its three-week London season. The music for this production is by Rossini, arranged by Bramwell Tovey, with choreography by William Morgan, the Scot who has worked most of his career abroad.
Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916), 7.30pm.

RUSSIA WITH LOVE: Roy Miles's latest haul from the Soviets includes some substantial works and, as befits the season, many are accessible and affordable.
Roy Miles Gallery, 29 Bruton Street, London W1 (071-495 4747); 10am-6pm.

IMAGES OF THE LONDON BLITZ: Some of the photographs taken during the London Blitz were the casual inspirations of passers-by, but most of the famous ones were part of a planned propaganda operation. The best images are shown and given context.
Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2 (071-600 3699), 10am-6pm.

HAMLET AS SHAKESPEARE ALWAYS WANTED IT PERFORMED: A witty reprise for Christmas in the West End: six people perform six short comic plays, unmasking the real truths behind the Shakespearean legend. Written by Tom Stoppard, Michael Frayn and Richard Curtis.
Duke of York's Theatre, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 5122). 1.15pm

BOBBY WELLINS: An evening of modern jazz and bop solos, led by the resourceful saxophonist whose playing is equal to that of Courtney Pine and his contemporaries.
606 Club, 90 Lots Road, London SW10 (071-352 5953), 10.30pm.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Last performance in the season of John Cox's production of *Così fan tutte*, which is unlikely to be revived again by the ENO. Up-and-coming star Andrew Shore sings the role of Don Alfonso, with Rita Cullis as Fiordiligi and Lesley Garrett as Despina. Alex Ingram conducts.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), 7pm.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 22

LEMURES

(c) The spirits of the dead, exorcised annually at the Festival of the Lemuria in Rome in May. The head of the house came bare-footed out, washed his hands in a spring, and chucked kidney beans into the night.

ECHIDNA

(b) A monster with the torso of a woman and a serpent's tail instead of legs. According to Hesiod, she was the daughter of Phorcys and Ceto. She lived in a cave in Sicily or the Peloponnese, and ate package tourists.

NAUTES

(c) An elderly Trojan who accompanied Aeneas. In Sicily he advised Aeneas not to stay on the island, but to go on to Latium. He received the palladium from Diomedes, when the oracle ordered its return to the Trojans.

GYGES

(a) A king of Lydia, whose story, as told by Herodotus, contains many elements of folk lore, such as the ring that confers invisibility, the amazing fortune, the discovery of treasure, and the love of a queen.

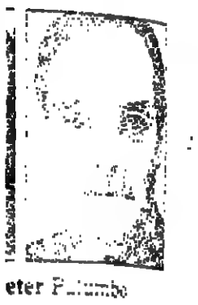
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Gallagher (White) — Lane (Black), Foreign & Colonial Hastings Masters 1990. White forced a quick win. Solution in tomorrow's *Times*.

Top Grandmasters at this year's Hastings Premier include Speelman, Larsen, Chandler and Sax. (Information: 0424 442500)

Yesterday's solution: 1 ... Rh1+ 2 Kxh1 Qxh3+ 3 Kg1 Qg2 mate.



BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Laurie Mayer and Jill Dando
8.50 Children's BBC, introduced by Simon Parkin, Andi Peters and Philippa Forrester, begins with The New Yogi Bear Show (r)
9.00 News, regional news and weather 9.05 Popeye and Son (r) 9.30 *The Juggler*. Drama set in 19th century Quebec
10.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Playdays 10.25 Rupert the Bear (r) 10.30 Charlie Brown and Snoopy Show (r)
11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 A Flintstone Christmas. Festive fun with Fred and Barney (r) 11.55 Woody Woodpecker (r)
12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 Starsky and Hutch. Chummy cops series starring David Soul and Paul Michael Glaser (r) 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax)
1.50 Film: The Fountainhead (1949, b/w). Ayn Rand's novel about an idealistic architect in conflict with big business gets heavily stylised treatment from the director King Vidor. Gary Cooper's simplistic performance as the man of integrity tends to be at odds with the elaborate style of the piece, and its Freudian symbolism, but there are suitably flamboyant supporting performances from Raymond Massey, as the press tycoon out to destroy Cooper, and Patricia Neal.
3.40 Lifeline. Richard Briers with an appeal on behalf of St Botolph's Rehabilitation Centre in London (r)
3.50 Corners. Young people's questions answered by Simon Davies and Sophie Aldred 4.05 The Jetsons 4.30 Edd the Duck's Panto
4.35 Take Two. Tony Robinson responds to comments on his *Maid Marian and Her Merry Men*
5.00 Newsround 5.10 Byker Grove. The final episode of the drama set on Tyneside. (Ceefax) 5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: *Sportswide 5.40 Inside Ulster*
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Jill Dando. Weather
6.30 Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Wogan in the West End. Drew Barrymore, child star of the film *ET*, meets Terry Wogan, who also talks to Julia McKenzie and Nicholas Parsons, currently starring in the critically-acclaimed West End musical *Into the Woods*
7.30 Film: Biggles (1986). Alex Hyde-White plays a New York businessman who keeps going back in time to the Western Front in 1917. Here he meets his "Time Twin", flying ace James "Biggles" Bigglesworth (Neil Dickson), and assists him in a daredevil adventure. Those new to the character may find this science fiction romp entertaining but devotees of the Biggles books are likely to be dismayed at the eccentric treatment of *Captain W. E. Johns's hero*. Directed by John Hough. (Ceefax)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather
9.30 Film: The Woman in Red (1984). Gene Wilder as a happily married man gets the seven-year itch when he falls in love with a model (Kelly LeBrock) he sees standing, like Marilyn Monroe, over a hot air grid. To complicate matters, his advances are intercepted by an over-zealous secretary at the office and he finds himself telling the most outrageous lies to his family. Wilder wrote and directed this remake of the French comedy *Pardon Mon Affaire* and the result is an enjoyable romantic farce, with sturdy support from Gilda Radner, Charles Grodin and Joseph Bologna. (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: Christmas in the City 10.20 Film: Woman in Red
10.55 *Film 90 Special with Barry Norman. An interview with Steven* Spielberg, who is the cinema's most successful box-office director but has never won an Oscar. A season of his films, including the world television premiere of *ET*, is being shown on BBC1 over Christmas (r).

Nightmare pursuit by a monster truck: Dennis Weaver (11.35pm)

11.35 Film: Duel (1971). Dennis Weaver is a travelling salesman used to driving long distances on deserted roads in the Californian outback. One such journey turns into a nightmare when he finds himself pursued, for no apparent reason, by a faceless driver in a vast truck whose sole aim seems to be that of crushing him. A deadly game of cat-and-mouse ensues. Steven Spielberg's early film, originally made for television but released in the cinema, piles on the suspense. Northern Ireland: 11.45 Film 90 Special 12.25am-1.50 Film: Duel
1.00am Weather

BBC 2

8.00 News 8.15 Westminster
8.30 Hopping Down in Kent. Londoners remember their hop-picking experiences (r) 9.00 It Doesn't Have To Hurt! Painless exercise (r) (Ceefax)
9.10 *Film: The Greatest Story Ever Told* (1965). A solemn, plodding spectacular which examines the life and times of Jesus Christ in a way to test the patience of even the most avid film buff. Max Von Sydow makes a dignified Christ but too many star names are wasted in cameo parts. John Wayne has a single line. Directed by George Stevens
12.20 The Invisible Man starring David McCallum (r) 1.05 Holiday Outings to Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mauritius (r) 1.20 Postman Pat (r)
1.35 Look, Stranger. A portrait of Don Rumbold, who works six months of the year to finance six months' skiing in Scotland (r)
2.00 News and weather followed by The Fox. An isolated farm in the middle of Dartmoor is home to Simon, his mother and his deaf-mute father. Simon's life is centred on his beloved animals, especially a new-found friend. Starring Adrienne Corri, Peter Arne and Simon King, now a distinguished wildlife photographer (r)
3.00 News and weather followed by Snowy, Chilly, Motley and Ms. According to Oxford zoologist and film-maker John Paling, our placid domestic pets, the cat and dog, are really wild animals in disguise (r) 3.50 News, regional news and weather
4.00 Catchword. Quiz game hosted by Paul Coia
4.30 Behind the Headlines. Sandi Toksvig with an anti-Christmas show featuring entertainer George Melly, a founder member of the British Humanist Association, who dislikes the season intensely
5.00 Food and Drink Christmas Special (r)
5.30 Film: The Man in the Iron Mask (1977). Alexandre Dumas's romantic classic is given rousing treatment in this television film, with a cast headed by Richard Chamberlain and Patrick McGoohan. Directed by Mike Newell. Wales: Cartoon Triple Bill 5.50 A Way With Numbers 6.15 Where on Earth Are You Going? 7.05 You Are What You Eat
7.15 What the Papers Say. How the national press treated the week's news

Self-mocking tour of the US: Malcolm Muggeridge (7.30pm)

7.30 Ladies and Gentlemen, It is My Pleasure.
● CHOICE: During his later years Malcolm Muggeridge, who died last month, had his television set removed from his home and ostentatiously turned his back on the medium. Yet he was one of the small screen's outstanding performers and it is surprising that television has not been quicker to honour his memory. But *gratitude is now due to the BBC for unearthing a piece of classic* Muggeridge which has not been seen since its original showing 25 years ago. A film by Jack Gold, better known as a director of cinema and television drama, follows Muggeridge on a hilariously self-mocking lecture tour of the United States. In between charming audiences from Nashville to Chicago, and amid a gruelling round of radio and television interviews, Muggeridge stands back to reflect on the American way of life. Almost every phrase is a gem and rarely can his genial cynicism have been employed to more diverting effect (r)
8.30 The Travel Show Guides. A comprehensive guide to skiing in the Austrian Tyrol. (Ceefax)
9.00 Monty Python's Flying Circus (r). (Ceefax)
9.30 Horizon Special: Red Star in Orbit — The Mission.
● CHOICE: David Dugan concludes his fine series on the Soviet space programme by following the story of the two cosmonauts, Alexander Balandin and Anatoli Solovyov, who this year took a record seven-hour walk in space to repair their damaged craft. The previous films have been about the Soviet Union's attempt to use space spectaculars to put one over the United States. But with the Cold War over and the Soviet economy falling apart there is a different attitude in Star City, where the space programmes are developed. Unlike Yuri Gagarin, who was paraded as a public hero, today's cosmonauts are seen as professionals doing a job. Their concern, in their country's straightened times, is to justify the huge investment in their activity. Allowed the sort of access he might enjoy in the west, Dugan presents a rounded view of the mission, drawing on the cosmonauts' families to give the personal angle
10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman 11.15 Weather
11.20 Twin Peaks. The last episode (r). (Ceefax)
12.10am Behind the Headlines. See 4.30. Ends at 12.45

ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Keynotes. Alistair Divall hosts the last in the series of the popular music quiz 9.55 Thames News and weather 10.00 The Real Ghostbusters (r)
10.30 This Morning. Magazine hosted by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley
12.05 Rainbow. Educational entertainment for young children 12.25 Home and Away. Australian soap about a couple and their foster children 12.55 Thames News and weather
1.00 News at One with John Suchet. Weather
1.20 A Problem Aired. Viewers with emotional anxieties discuss them with a caring therapist, Dr John Cobb (r) 1.50 A Country Practice. Australian drama serial
2.20 Coming of Age. American domestic comedy about a retired airline pilot. Starring Paul Dooley, Phyllis Newman, Alan Young and Glynis Johns 2.50 Talkabout. Last in the series of the game show for the quick-witted. Hosted by Andrew O Connor
3.15 News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 The Young Doctors
3.55 A Garfield Christmas Special. Cartoon fun with the ginger tom 4.25 Utterly Brilliant. Timmy Mallett is shown the skills of origami by Paul Jackson 4.45 Knightmare. Electronic dungeon game
5.10 Home and Away (r)
5.40 News with Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle) Weather
5.55 Crime Monthly Preview. Paul Ross previews cases featured in tonight's *Crime Monthly*
6.00 6 O'Clock Live introduced live by Frank Bough from Hay's Galleria near London Bridge. Among the guests are Dudley Moore and Russ Abbot
7.00 The Family Fortunes Christmas Show. Les Dennis hosts a celebrity edition of the quiz show. The guests include Marti Caine, *Floella Benjamin, Russell Grant, Bernadette Nolan and Linda Lusardi*
7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle)
8.00 Watching. Because of the fledglings at the bottom of the garden, Brenda is in bed with Janet and Jim, and Pamela's birthday surprise is really moving. (Oracle)
8.30 Magic Moments.
● CHOICE: The hero of this romantic drama, adapted from a Nora Roberts novel by the experienced Terence Brady and Charlotte Bingham, is a magician. Played by the American actor, John Shea, he is persuaded by an upcoming British television executive (Jenny Seagrove) to do a small screen special and amid talk of weaving spells and much dreamy music they fall in love. The mixing of business and pleasure is too much for Seagrove's boss (Paul Freeman) who flies out to Madrid, where the couple are sharing a hotel suite, to prise her away from the smarmy conjurer. *Magic Moments* is an agreeably lightweight piece with just enough surprises up its sleeve to enable a slight story to be stretched over nearly two hours and it builds to a strong, if predictable, climax. (Oracle)

Falling under a spell: John Shea and Jenny Seagrove (8.30pm)

10.25 News (Oracle) and weather 10.35 LWT News
10.40 Crime Monthly introduced by Paul Ross
11.40 Golf: PGA Tour 90. Action from the Mazda champions tournament
12.40am Film: Nighthawks (1981) starring Sylvester Stallone, Billy Dee Williams, Lindsay Wagner and Rutger Hauer. The story of two tough New York police sergeants who are reassigned to a special unit that is tracking an international terrorist. Efficiently-made thriller which helped the Dutch actor Hauer to international fame. Directed by Bruce Malmuth. Followed by News headlines
2.25 Crisis at Christmas. Anna Massey narrates a moving documentary about the plight of London's homeless. Includes interviews with some of the young inhabitants of "Cardboard City" under Waterloo Bridge
2.30 CinemAttractions. The latest news and behind-the-scenes reports from the American box office.
3.00 Film: The Darker Side of Terror (1979) starring Robert Forster, Adrienne Barbeau and Ray Milland. A made-for-television drama about a researcher who agrees to have himself cloned and finds he is fighting an uncontrollable monster for the affections of his wife. A poor attempt at a psychological thriller, which fails to deliver. Directed by Gus Trikonis.
4.50 Cartoon Time
5.05 A Disney Christmas Gift.
5.55 ITN Morning News with Anne Leuchars. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Sing and Swing with the jazz stars of the Thirties and Forties (r)
6.20 Business Daily
6.30 Channel Four Daily
9.25 The Art of Landscape. A soothing mixture of music and landscape
11.00 As It Happens. With Richard Jobson in Israel
12.00 Time To Talk. Lesley Judd talks to former *Blue Peter* colleague Valerie Singleton (r)
12.30 Business Daily. Financial and business news service presented by Greg Wood
1.00 Sesame Street. Children's educational programme with guests Billy Joel and Marlee Matlin
2.00 Pet World. A series for animal lovers, with vet John Wilson (r)
2.30 Film: The Fast Lady (1962). Lively but aimless comedy with Stanley Baxter as a love-struck cyclist who must impress the object of his desire (Julie Christie) and, more importantly, her bombastic father (James Robertson Justice). "The Fast Lady" (a vintage Bentley) should fit the bill, but driving it proves more difficult than he anticipated. Directed by Ken Annakin
4.15 Lesse Go. Canoeists negotiate the rapids of Belgium's River Lesse
4.30 Fifteen-to-One. The final the quiz show, with questionmaster William G. Stewart
5.00 Not on Sunday. Neil MacGregor, director of the National Gallery, talks about his favourite Christmas paintings, Sarah Rutty explores the faith of the Messianic Jews, and Theo Sowa investigates religious provision for the deaf
5.30 American Football: Red 42 with Mick Longhurst and Gary Imlach. Includes interviews with football stars plus the previous week's highlights.
6.00 Happy Days. American series about Fifties high-school life. Fonzie and the gang have to take an army physical
6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. The guests are *Dance Energy*'s presenter Normski, actor Warren Mitchell and, providing the music, Jimmy Somerville
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext)
7.50 First Reaction. Eamonn McCabe, picture editor of the *Guardian*, talks about the work of photographer André Kertész which is on show at London's Barbican. Followed by Weather
8.00 Brookside. Soap set in a Liverpool suburban close. (Teletext)
8.30 Hard News. Peter Bottomley, MP, talks about why he still feels tainted by the sex stories about him for which he successfully sued the *Mail on Sunday*. Plus, the close relationship between police and crime reporters; and a specially commissioned version of "The Twelve Days of Christymas" sung by the choir of St Brides, Fleet Street
9.00 Drop the Dead Donkey. Television newsroom comedy. Damien reports from backward and impoverished places — Peru and the NHS (r)
9.30 The Great Plant Collections. *First of a re-run of the series* searching out Britain's great plant collections, starting at Caerhays Castle in Cornwall. (Teletext)
10.00 The Golden Girls. American comedy with the mature Miami matrons. (Teletext)
10.30 Rita Rudner. A stand-up routine from the outrageous, sharp-witted comedienne (r)
11.00 The Word. With the Stranglers, Bananarama, Paul Hogan and Sylvester Stallone's mother Jacqueline
12.00 Dancedaze from London's Brixton Academy

Jealousy rears its head: Rex Harrison and Linda Darnell (1.00am)

1.00am Film: Unfaithfully Yours (1948, b/w).
● CHOICE: This stylish and imaginative comedy from Preston Sturges made little impact at the box-office and was undervalued by critics who saw it as a sad decline for the maker of *Sullivan's Travels*. But time has treated the film kindly. If it is not quite on a level with Sturges's best work, its subversive wit can still sting. In one of his most effective film parts Rex Harrison plays an irascible conductor who becomes convinced that his wife (Linda Darnell) has been unfaithful. His jealousy comes to a head during a concert and as he conducts Rossini, Wagner and Tchaikovsky he imagines various ways of getting his own back. As usual Sturges the director is marvellously served by Sturges the writer, with a screenplay of dazzling invention and satirical edge. Rudy Vallee and the gravel-voiced Lionel Stander offer stalwart support. The film was disastrously remade in the Eighties with Dudley Moore and Nastassia Kinski. Ends at 2.55

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 Yan Can Cook 2.20-2.50 The Champions — Where Are They Now? 5.10-5.40 Katts and Dog *6.00 Home and Away* 6.25-7.00 Anglia News 10.45 Cross Question Christmas Quiz 11.15 Beauty and the Beast 12.10am Video View 12.40 Film: Nighthawks 2.30 Film: The Mamons 4.35-6.05 America's Top Ten

BORDER

As London except: 1.25pm A Country Practice 2.20-2.50 Gardening Time 6.00 Lookaround Friday 6.30-7.00 Take the High Road 10.50 Film: The California Kid 12.10am-2.30 Film: Coal Miner's Daughter

CENTRAL

As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 The Home Show 2.20-2.50 Gardening Time 5.10-5.40 *Three's Company 6.00 Home and Away* 6.25-7.00 Central News 10.45 Central Weekend 12.15am-2.30 Film: The Onion Field

GRANADA

As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 Coming of Age 2.20-2.50 Wish You Were Here ..? 5.10-5.40 Katts and Dog 6.00 Home and Away 6.30-7.00 Granada Tonight 10.45 Film: The California Kid 12.10am Film: Coal Miner's Daughter 2.30 CinemAttractions 3.00-5.00 Film: The Darker Side of Terror

HTV WEST

As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 The Home Show 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 6.00 HTV News 6.30-7.00 HTV Sportsweek 10.40 It's Nearly Christmas 11.45 Hooperman 12.15am CinemAttractions 12.40 Film: Nighthawks 2.30 The Twilight Zone 3.00 Film: The Darker Side of Terror 4.50-5.00 Cartoon Time

HTV WALES

As HTV West except: 6.00pm Wales At Six 6.30-7.00 Stopwatch 10.40-11.45 David Frost's Night Visitors

TSW

As London except: 1.20pm Wish You Were Here..? 1.50 The Sullivans 2.20-2.50 The Spectacular World of Guinness Records 3.25-3.55 Home and Away 5.10-5.40 Who's The Boss? 6.00 TSW Today 6.20 Christmas Crackers 6.30-7.00 Discovering Gardens 10.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H 11.40 Married... With Children 12.10am Film: Coal Miner's Daughter 2.25 CinemAttractions 2.55 Film: The Darker Side of Terror 4.45-5.00 Disney Christmas Cartoon

TVS

As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 Wish You Were Here..? 3.25-3.50 Sons and Daughters 6.00-7.00 Coast to Coast Weekend Special 10.50 The Best of Tonight in Concert 11.15 Film: Chinatown 1.40am Film: Before Winter Comes 3.40 Midge Ure 3.50 America's Top Ten 4.20 CinemAttractions 4.50-5.00 Disney Christmas Cartoon

TYNE TEES

As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 Yan Can Cook 3.25-3.55 Santa Barbara 6.00 Northern Life 6.30-7.00 On the Wild Side 10.40 Forbidden Ground 11.25 Point of Order 11.55 Peter Tosh 12.10am Film: The Coal Miner's Daughter 2.30 CinemAttractions 3.00 Film: The Darker Side of Terror 4.50 Disney Christmas Cartoon 5.05-5.55 A Disney Christmas Gift

ULSTER

As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 Ask Anne! 3.25-3.55 Glenroe 6.00 Six Tonight 6.30-7.00 Sportsbeat 10.40 Kelly 12.05am Film: Coal Miner's Daughter 2.25 CinemAttractions 2.55-5.00 Film: The Darker Side of Terror

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 1.20pm-2.50 Film: Let the Balloon Go 6.00 Calendar 6.30-7.00 The Calendar Fashion Show 10.45 Film: Bite the Bullet 1.10pm Film: One Million Years BC 3.00 Film: The Darker Side of Terror 4.45 Disney Cartoon 5.05-5.55 A Disney Christmas Gift

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sing and Swing 6.30 C4 Daily 9.25 Sesame Street 10.25 Film: Child in the House" 12.00 Special 12.10 Pobol Y Cwm 12.30 Newyddion 12.40 Slot Meithrin 1.00 Fifteen to One 1.30 Business Daily 2.00 Landshapes 2.30 Film: The Daughter of Rosie O'Grady 4.30 Slot 23 5.15 Brookside 5.45 Heno 6.00 Newyddion 6.10 Heno 6.40 Pobol Y Cwm 7.00 Dinas 7.30 Gwenty Tair Seren 8.00 Glas Y Dorlan 8.30 Newyddion 8.55 O Dewi Pob Chwilon 10.00 Cheers 10.30 Rita Rudner 11.00 The Word 12.00 Dancedaze 1.00 Film: Unfaithfully Yours" (Rex Harrison, Linda Darnell) 2.55 Diwedd

RTE 1

Starts: 12.30pm Arts Express 1.00 News 1.40 Crusade in Europe 2.00 The Forum Presents 3.00 "Live" At Three 4.40 Knot's Landing 5.15 Comedy Capers 5.30 The Bullseye 6.00 Six-One 7.00 Fair City 7.30 Grand Ole Opry 8.00 Winning Streak 8.30 After Henry 9.00 News 9.30 The Late Late Show 11.35 News followed by Midnight Caller 12.40am Close

NETWORK 2

Starts: 2.30pm Bosco 3.00 The Den 5.05 Jo-Maxi 6.30 Home and Away 7.00 Nuacht 7.08 Cursai 7.30 Coronation Street 8.00 News followed by Bank of Ireland All Stars Awards 9.00 Check It Out 9.30 News followed by Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Murder in Mind 9.55 Film: Paravi 11.45 Lou Grant 12.45am Close

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

● Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites.
6.00am The DJ Kat Show, incl Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles 8.40 Mrs Pepperpot, followed by Playabout 9.10 Jackpot 9.30 Here's Lucy 10.00 It's Your Round 10.30 The Young Doctors 11.00 The Bold and the Beautiful 11.30 The Young and the Restless 12.30pm Sale of the Century 1.00 True Confessions 1.30 Another World 2.15 Loving 2.45 Wife of the Week 3.15 Bewitched 3.45 The DJ Kat Show, incl Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles 5.00 Lost in Space: *The Colonists* 6.00 Family Ties 6.30 Sale of the Century 7.00 Love at First Sight 7.30 Growing Pains 8.00 Ripoder: *Home for Christmas* 9.00 Hunter: *Playing God* 10.00 WWF Wrestling Challenge 11.00 The Deadly Ernest Horror Show 1.00am The Ropers *1.30 Pages from Skytext*

SKY NEWS

● Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites.
News on the hour.
5.00am International Business Report 5.30 Newsline 6.00 International Business Report 9.30 Newsline 10.30 Beyond 2000 11.00 International Business Report 11.30 The Frank Bough Interview 1.30pm NBC Today 2.30 Parliament 3.30 The Lords 4.30 Beyond 2000 5.00 Live at Five 6.30 Newsline 7.30 International Business Report 8.30 Frank Bough This Week 10.30 Newsline 11.30 NBC Nightly News 12.30am Newsline 1.30 NBC News 2.30 Frank Bough This Week 4.30 Frank Bough This Week

SKY MOVIES

● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Showcase
10.00 GI Joe: *Revenge of Cobra*: Animated military adventures with the comic book hero
12.00 Scrooge (1951): A memorable adaptation of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, starring Alastair Sim as the miser who discovers the true meaning of Christmas
2.00 Harry and Son (1984): Big-screen soap-opera with Paul Newman as a middle-aged man who loses his job and his wife, and decides to give his 21-year-old son's (Robby Benson) life a guiding hand
4.00 Tintin: The Crab with the Golden Claws: Animated adventures
5.00 The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus: Animated tale about Father Christmas and how he came to spread happiness around the world
6.00 The Whistle Blower (1986). Michael Caine investigates his son's apparent suicide, and discovers a ruthless side to British Intelligence
7.40 Entertainment Tonight
8.00 Stealing Home (1988): Jodie Foster and Mark Harmon star in this bittersweet comedy about a man's memories of his childhood sweetheart which give him the strength to face the future
9.40 At the Pictures
10.00 Nuts (1987): Tom Topor adapted his own play about a prostitute (Barbra Streisand) who fights for her right to stand trial for manslaughter after the court and her rich parents have branded her insane. Co-stars Richard Dreyfuss
11.55 Act of Piracy (1988): Action-packed tale in which a band of mercenaries capture a large motor yacht as it makes its way to Australia. Starring Gary Busey and Belinda Bauer
1.45am Twisted Nerve (1968): A tense psychological thriller starring Hywel Bennett as a schizophrenic who murders his stepfather before disguising himself as his retarded brother. Co-stars Hayley Mills, Billie Whitelaw and Phyllis Calvert
4.00 Monty Python and the Holy Grail *(1974): The legend of King Arthur and the* Knights of the Round Table as reinterpreted by the Monty Python team. Graham Chapman rides the land as King Arthur. With John Cleese, Eric Idle, Michael Palin, Terry Gilliam and Terry Jones. Ends at 6.30

EUROSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am As Sky One 8.30 Eurobics 9.00 Ice Skating: Trophee Lalique from Paris 11.00 World Cup Skiing: Men's Slalom from Madonna di Campiglio, Italy 12.00 Eurobics 12.30pm Snooker: Dubai Classic 1.30 Golf: World Cup, Florida 2.30 Tennis: Graf v Fernandez 4.00 Mountain Bike Championships 4.30 Synchronised Swimming 5.00 Equestrianism 6.00 Surfer: Coke Classic from Sydney 6.30 Eurosport News 7.00 Swimming 8.00 World Cup Luge 9.00 World Cup Skiing: Men's Giant Slalom from Kranska Gora, Yugoslavia, Women's Downhill from Morzine, France 10.30 World Jet Ski Tour 11.00 Eurosport News 11.30 Snooker: Dubai Classic 12.30am Three-Cushion Billiards World Cup

SCREENSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
7.00am 1990 Review of College Football 9.00 The Sports Show 10.00 Polo 11.00 Volleyball: France v USSR 12.00 Matchroom Pro Box 2.00pm Ice Hockey 4.00 Argentinian Football 5.00 Sailing 6.00 NBA Basketball 8.00 "Go" Dutch Motor Sports 9.00 Rugby 10.30 Ice Hockey 12.30am Pro Ski Tour 1.30 World Cup Figure Skating 2.30 Boxing from the Forum 4.00 Ice Hockey

MTV

● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Twenty-four hours of rock and pop

LIFESTYLE

● Via the Astra satellite.
10.00am Everyday Workout 10.30 Search for Tomorrow 10.55 Coffee Break 11.00 Telemart 11.35 The Edge of Night 12.00 Sally Jessy Raphael 12.50pm Pam and Dave's Christmas Rave 1.20 Great American Gameshows *2.50 Rafferty's Rules: Friends and Neighbours* 3.30 Lifestyle Plus 3.40 Video Tours 4.05 Great American Gameshows 5.20 Tea Break 5.30 WKRP in Cincinnati 6.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 8.00 JSTV 10.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 12.00 Satellite Jukebox

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

● Via the Marco Polo satellite.
1.20pm The Movie Channel
1.50 Ransom (1974): Sean Connery plays a security chief called in to restore control after terrorists hijack a plane
3.40 Ten Little Indians (1966): Shirley Eaton stars in this classic Agatha Christie whodunit in which ten people are lured to a house in the Alps and then murdered one by one
5.25 The Alamo (1960): John Wayne and Richard Widmark star in this classic Western about the 180 Texans who fought for Texan independence from Mexico
8.00 Planes, Trains and Automobiles (1987): Steve Martin and John Candy become reluctant travelling companions when their respective journeys home for Thanksgiving are hit by a series of disasters
10.00 A Cry in the Dark (1989): Meryl Streep stars in this dramatisation of Australia's notorious dingo baby case
12.10am Bloodsport (1988): Unnecessarily violent martial arts drama starring Jean-Claude Van Damme and Donald Gibb
1.50 Fatal Attraction (1987): A weekend fling with Glenn Close becomes an endless nightmare for Michael Douglas. Ends at 3.45

THE SPORTS CHANNEL

● Via the Marco Polo satellite.
1.25pm Sportsdesk 1.30 Racing Today 2.00 Boxing 4.00 Tennis Match of the Year 5.00 Texas Championship Rodeo 6.00 Sportsdesk 6.30 NFL This Week 7.00 Motor World 7.30 Sportsdesk 8.00 The Main Event: I Was There. Nick Faldo talks about the past year *10.00 Sportsdesk 10.30 This is the Sports* Channel 11.30 Racing Today 12.00 Sportsdesk 12.30am I Was There

THE POWER STATION

● Via the Marco Polo satellite.
7.00am Twenty-two hours of rock and pop

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather and News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert: Parry (Lady Radnor's Suite: City of London Sinfonia under Hickox). Schubert (Twelve German Dances, D 790: Imogen Cooper, piano)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont): Mozart (Horn Quintet in E flat, K 407: Griller Quartet, with Dennis Brain); Berlioz (Dances from Les Troyens, Act IV, ROH Orchestra under Davis); Haydn (Symphony No 45 in F sharp minor, Farewell: English Concert under Pinnock, harpsichord)
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week: Handel (Anthem for the Founding Hospital; Concerto in G, Op 3 No 3; Musick for the Royal Fireworks)
9.35 Centenarians: Works composed in 1890. Mascagni (Cavalleria Rusticana, Prelude, Act 1: Philharmonia under Sinopoli); Brahms (String Quintet No 2 in G, Op 111, Allegretto: Amadeus Quartet); Tchaikovsky (The Queen of Spades, Act 1 Scene 2: Bolshoi Theatre Chorus and Orchestra under Ermler). Satie (Gnossienne No 1: Pascal Rogé, piano); d'Indy (Karadec, Op 34, Incidental Music: J.F. Paillard CO under Paillard), Fauré (Cinq mélodies de Venise, Op 58: Gerard Souzay, baritone, Dalton Baldwin, piano); Massenet (Visions: Rhineland State Palatinate PO under Stoll); Wolf (Sagt, seid ihr es, feines Herr, Nun wandre, Maria: Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, baritone, Gerald Moore, piano); Glazounov (The Sea, Op 28: USSR RSO under Ziuraitis); Debussy (Danse bohémienne; Tarantelle styrienne: Livia Rev, piano); Elgar (Overture, Froissart, Op 19: LPO under Boult); Satie (Gnossienne No 3: Pascal Rogé)
11.40 Nottingham Festival: East of England Orchestra under Malcolm Nabarro performs Mozart (Symphony No 31 in D, K 297, Paris); Bloch (Proclamation); Eric Coates (London Suite); Alan Bush (Symphony No 2, Op 33, Nottingham)
1.00pm News
1.05 Christian Zacharias: The pianist plays Beethoven (Sonata in F minor, Op 2 No 1); Schumann (Fantasiestücke, Op 12); Beethoven (Sonata in G, Op 79) (r)
2.00 Listening to ... Maxwell Davies (r)
3.00 Youth Orchestras of the World: Gli Amici Della Musica. Members of the Bournemouth-based youth orchestra talk about their work. With highlights from a recent concert, including Bach (Magnificat in D): Rachmaninov (Symphony No 2 in E minor)
4.45 A Little Chamber Music: Danzi Quintet performs Hindemith (Kleine Kammermusik, Op 24 No 2)
5.30 Mainly for Pleasure
6.30 The Music Maker: Ian Carr presents the fifth programme about the trumpeter Miles Davis
7.00 News
7.05 Third Ear
7.30 College Concert: Live from the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. BBC PO under Gerard Schwarz performs Strauss (Four Symphonic Interludes, *Intermezzo, Violin Concerto*). 8.25 Nicholas Kenyon, with Peter Dickinson and Tim Page, considers David Diamond's music. 8.45 Diamond (Symphony No 2, UK premiere)
9.30 Ancient Land: Sacred Whale.
● CHOICE: Tom Lowenstein, who shares the reading of his poem with Maurice Denham, Brenda Bruce and Paul Copley, calls it a ritual for four voices. To be universally comprehensible, all rituals need to be meticulously defined. All praise, then, to Lowenstein because, in recreating the shamanistic rituals of the North Alaskan Eskimos whose ancestors' lives were inextricably bound up with the maintenance of a balance between themselves and their land and their whales, he has himself kept a fine balance between the elaborate rituals and the poetic imagery he employs to describe them
10.15 Mozart (Quartets in F, K 590 and in D minor, K 421: Endellion Quartet) (r)
11.20 Magnificat. Lassus (Magnificat, Erano capei d'oro: Tallis Scholars under Phillips). In the first of three programmes, Cormac Rigby reads from a commentary on the Canticle of the Virgin, taken from the pre-Reformation devotional book, *The Myroure of Oure Ladye* (r)
11.30 Composers of the Week: *Martinů* (r)
12.30am News 12.35 Close

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on FM
5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day with the Rev Peter Read 6.30 Today, with Peter Hobday and Sue MacGregor, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55, 7.55, 8.57 Weather
9.00 News
9.05 Desert Island Discs: Sue Lawley with the Duchess of Kent (s) (r)
9.45 Let It Be Sardinia! Bandits? What Bandits? The third of four talks by David Bean, who traverses the island in the footsteps of D.H. Lawrence
10.00 News, Special Assignment: Reports from BBC correspondents at home and abroad
10.30 Morning Story: The Slumber King, from *British Folk Tales*, written by Kevin Crossley-Holland. Read by Andy Hockley
10.45 Daily Service, with the choir of *St Andrew's School*, Senderwood, South Africa (s)
11.00 News; Friday Lives: Joanna Buchan with compelling stories about people and the lives they lead (s)
12.00 News; You and Yours with John Howard
12.25pm The Food Programme: Derek Cooper samples Swedish Christmas fare, and discovers the changes taking place in the way food and drink are produced 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Woman's Hour: Jenni Mills presents the programme from Bristol. Includes a discussion on the possibility of package holidays in space within the next 20 years; Caroline Waldegrave of the Pru Leith Cookery School gives advice on Christmas fare; there is an item on the Natural Theatre Company of Bath; and Victoria Salmon, an independent film maker, talks about her recent experiences in Romania
3.00 News; Classic Serial: The Forsyte Chronicles. A 23-part adaptation of John Galsworthy's saga, narrated by Dirk Bogarde (12) (s) (r)
4.00 News
4.05 Tea Junction: Patrick Hannan and guests reflect on the week's events. Last programme in the series
4.30 Kaleidoscope: Includes an interview with guitarist Chet Atkins; a review, and an interview, with Adrian Wiszniewski, whose retrospective exhibition is at the Fruitmarket Gallery in Edinburgh, a review of Michael Levey's book *The Soul of the Eye*, and poets Wendy Cope, Simon Armitage, Jackie Kay and Gavin Ewart read Christmas poems (s)
5.00 PM, with Valerie Singleton 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Financial Report
6.30 Going Places: In this week's edition of the transport magazine, Jonathan Marcus discovers what to look for when buying an aeroplane
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week (s)
8.05 Any Questions? From Buxton, Derbyshire, Brian Redhead is joined by Diane Abbott, MP; Lynda Chalker, MP, Minister for Overseas Development; Shirley Williams, Professor of Electoral Politics at Harvard University; and Germaine Greer
8.50 Stop Press: Sheena MacDonald with a personal review of the week's press
9.15 Kaleidoscope: In the Faroes. Paul Allen visits the Faroe Islands, where the islanders have revived their Nordic heritage of painting, music and writing (s)
9.45 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: In My Wildest Dreams, by Leslie Thomas (7 of 12)
11.00 Week Ending: Bill Wallis, David Tate and Sally Grace present a satirical review of the week's news (s)
11.25 The Financial Week
11.45 Under the Weather: With the *help of the BBC sound* archives, climatologist Mick Kelly examines the British and their weather. In the first of three programmes, he recalls the surge of 1953 in East Anglia (r)
12.00-12.30am News, incl 12.20 Weather 12.33 Shipping Forecast

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. World Service: MW 648kHz/463m. Jazz FM 102.2. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; Melody FM 104.9.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. 5.00am Gary King 6.30 Simon Mayo 9.00 Simon Bates 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Davies in Disney. Gary Davies visits the Magic Kingdom in Disney World, Florida 3.00 Steve Wright in the Afternoon 5.30 News '90 6.00 Round Table 7.30 Jeff Young's Big Beat 10.00 The Friday Rock Show 12.00 The Mary Whitehouse Experience (r) 12.30-2.00am Andy Peebles Soul Train

RADIO 2

FM Stereo and MW. 4.00am Steve Madden 5.30 Chris Stuart 7.30 Derek Jameson 9.30 Katie Boyle 11.00 Jimmy Young 1.05pm David Jacobs 2.00 Gloria Hunniford: Christmas Carol Concert. Music from the Chalk Farm Salvation Army Band, the London Chorus Society and the BBC Choir Girl of the Year 4.00 Bob Holness 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Hinge and Bracket 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 8.45 Richard Rodney Bennett at the piano 9.00 Listen to the Band 10.00 The Radio 2 Arts Programme 12.05am Jazz Parade 12.30 Vince Hill's Solid Gold Music Show (r) 1.00am-4.00 Colin Berry with Night Ride

RADIO 5

6.00am World Service Newsdesk 6.30 Morning Edition 9.00 Take Five 10.25 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 for toddlers 10.40 The Family Business, incl 11.00 Sport 12.00 News, Sport 12.30pm Anita Morgan Meets Edgar Carey 1.00 Sport 1.05 As Radio 3 2.00 Sport 2.05 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (broadcast at 10.25am) 2.30 World Service, incl 3.00, 4.00 Sport 4.35 Five Aside 7.20 Christmas Tales. A Lion for the King, by Meryl Doney 7.35 Follow that Star. A light-hearted version of the Christmas story 8.00 Afro-Pop 9.00 The Leading Edge: John Howard talks to yachtswoman Tracey Edwards (r) 9.30 Rave, incl 10.00, 11.00 Sport 11.08 World Service 11.58-12.05am Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am Morgenmagazin 5.35 News in German: Headlines in English and French 5.47 Press Review 5.52 Financial News 5.56 Weather and Travel News 6.00 Newsdesk 6.03 Londres Matin 7.00 News 7.09 24 Hours, News Summary and Financial News 7.30 The Carol Composer 8.00 News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 Music Review 9.00 News 9.09 Review of the British Press 9.15 The World Today 9.30 Financial News; Sports Roundup 9.45 Seven Seas 10.01 Focus on Faith 10.30 The Great Musicals 11.00 News 11.09 News About Britain 11.15 Global Concerns 11.30 Midi Magazine 12.00 Newsreel 12.15pm The Carol Composer 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 News 1.09 24 Hours, News Summary and Financial News 1.30 Quote Unquote 2.00 News. Outlook 2.30 Off the Shelf: The Way of all Flesh 2.45 The Learning World 3.00 Newsreel 3.15 Music Review 4.00 News 4.09 News About Britain 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Heute Aktuell 5.00 News 5.09 Commentary 5.15 The World Today 5.30 Londres Soir 6.15 BBC English 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 German Features 7.54 News in German 8.00 News 8.09 The World Today 8.25 Words of Faith 8.30 Science in Action 9.01 Sports Roundup 9.15 B-Side Beat 9.30 People and Politics 10.00 Newshour 11.00 News 11.05 Commentary 11.10 Financial News 11.15 Worldbrief 11.30 Multitrack 3 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30pm From the Weeklies 12.45 Recording of the Week 1.01 Outlook 1.25 Financial News 1.30 Short Story: A women's revenge 1.45 Here's Humph! 2.00 News 2.09 Review of the British Press 2.15 Network UK 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 News 3.09 News About Britain 3.15 The World Today 3.30 The Vintage Chart Show 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 The World Today 4.45 News and Press Review in German

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TV CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

Silence falls on valley's heart of coal

By Tom Davies

THE last lump of coal from the last pit in the Rhondda was mined yesterday and, as the last shift gathered in the pithead baths at Maerdy, it brought to an end more than 100 years of passionate and turbulent history.

This morning about 300 of the men will be gathering back at the pit in their best suits to make a symbolic final march from the pit to the village. The huge embroidered banner of the lodge will head the procession and there will be a band, a few speeches and the unveiling of a memorial plaque.

Each of the men will receive a certificate saying that they worked at the last pit in the Rhondda on its last day of production. Many of the families have already taken home their own lump of coal in a plastic bag, after a family visit to the mine last Sunday.

This morning's march will reprise so many other marches along this lonely mountain road, watched over by high tips, since the pit was first sunk in 1875. The most notable was the Maerdy miners' dramatic return to work after the 1984-5 strike when they went in with clenched fists raised, singing: "Here we go, here we go, here we go." Any visitor would have sworn that this, the most militant pit in the most militant union in the land, had won everything.

But the old miners here will remember other savage marches too: as when the hooter would sound after a fatal accident and the whole pit would stop working to march back to the village with a body. The most terrifying sound in the world for any Maerdy woman was the unexpected sound of the cleats of hobnail boots along that road as the men brought back the dead man to his widow.

There are still miners in the welfare hall who talk of rats swarming around the ponies' stables underground and the taste of black pats (pit cockroaches) in their sandwiches; of zinc barbs hanging on nails in the marigold gardens, and having money stopped for candles, oil for the lamps and chalk for marking the drams. Tell them a story of hardship and they always know a worse one. They know everything about this, the hardest work under heaven.

They know horrifying stories of boils the size of rugby balls and lying on their sides to hew coal in six inches of water. They remember shaking Robin's starch on baby bottoms because there was no talcum powder, and using baked bean tins for sand buckets on the miners' annual outing to Barry Island. They have seen the men of their families dying by inches, their lungs choked with dust.

Many of the older ones also understood the secret language of the pit props: of how their creaking would tell that there was water about; how hard the rock was coming down or whether to make a quick run for it. Life was always hard and dangerous down the hole.

In spite of this, the Maerdy miner always loved his pit, keeping one another laughing through the long shifts. Most of them are comical, lyrical and exceptionally tender men who, as they say around here, have a bell on every tooth.

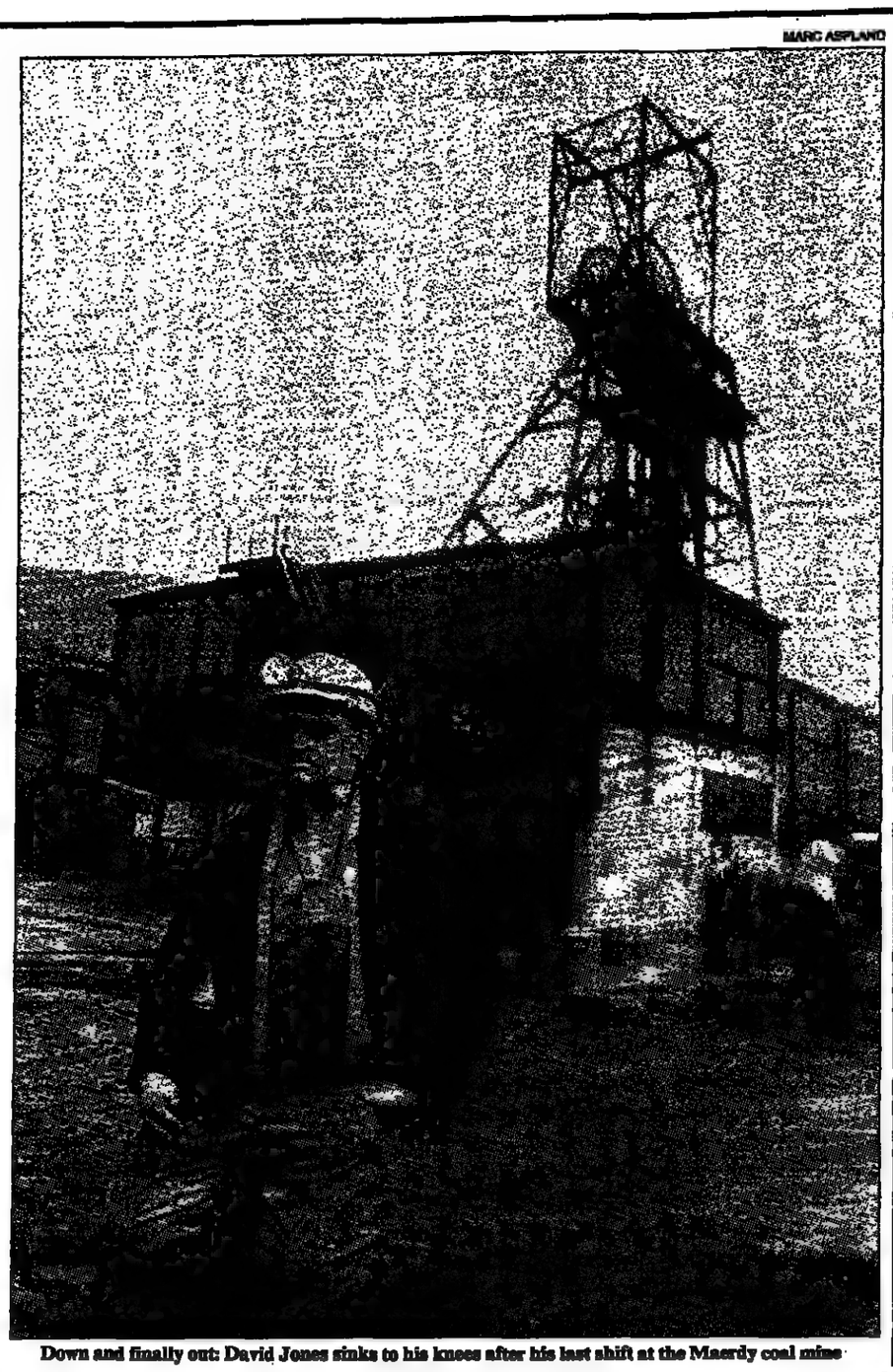
Shout "Yes" along the main terrace of Maerdy, they say, and a dozen heads will pop out of the doorways all shouting back "No". Making love is described as "having a bit of a rub"; a man might be so boring "he would put a glass eye to sleep", and when a man is dying "his tools are on the bar". Their idea of a joke is to grab a newly married man in the pithead baths, give him a big love-bite on his neck and send him home to explain it to his wife.

The village was also politically militant beyond Karl Marx's wildest dreams, earning the name of Little Moscow, due to its communist activity. Hammers and sickles were hung in windows on the days of funerals and one of the lodge members sent a telegram of congratulation to Mao Tse-tung when he took power in China.

Only 17 of the Maerdy miners have chosen to stay members of National Coal. The others have taken redundancy and will probably spend the rest of their lives on what they call the CID (compensation, invalidity and dole). Indeed, the future of the whole Rhondda Valley, which once kept the world warm, is bleak.

Maerdy pit itself, already looking like a modernist cathedral fallen on hard times with every window broken and its rooms covered with coal dust, will be demolished and grassed over, returning the valley to the state it was first found in, filled with nightingales and squirrels, by those first sinkers in 1875.

MARC ASPLAND



Down and finally out: David Jones sinks to his knees after his last shift at the Maerdy coal mine

Thatcher rewards her loyal aides

Continued from page 1

telephonist. There are few surprises. Speculation in some newspapers that Jeffrey Archer, the novelist and former Tory deputy chairman, would be on the list proved unfounded. It is understood that Mr Archer's name had been floated by Mrs Thatcher's associates some time ago for possible inclusion in an honours list; however, *The Times* has learnt that he was not formally rejected by the honours scrutiny committee. The forthcoming new year honours list was prepared before Mrs Thatcher's resignation and its awards will also have been made on her recommendation.

The other new life peers are Sir Hector Laing, life president of United Biscuits, Peter Palumbo, the property developer and chairman of the Arts Council, Sir Jeffrey Sterling, chairman of P and O, Sir Gordon White, chairman of Hanson Industries, Sir David Wolfson, a long-time friend and former chief-of-staff at Downing Street, and Dame Joan Seccombe.

Andrew Turnbull, principal private secretary to Mrs Thatcher and now to John Major, becomes a Commander of the Order of the Bath (CB). Mr Ingham is one of eight new knights. The others are Mr Bell, Geoffrey Leigh, chairman of Allied London Properties and an important benefactor of causes promoted by her, Nicholas Lloyd, editor of the *Daily Express*, four of her most loyal MPs, George Gardiner, chairman of the Thatcherite 92 group, Peter Morrison, her last PPS, and Gerry Neale and Michael Neubert.

Among those awarded the CBE are Robin Catford, Mrs Thatcher's appointments secretary, John Henderson, her personal GP, Brian Hitchen, editor of the *Daily Star*, and Harvey Thomas, the Tory party's director of presentation and designer of platform sets at party conferences. John Whittingdale, her former political secretary, is awarded the OBE.

Political sketch

Final fling with the festive requests

PARLIAMENT'S last day in the old year is a special one for MPs: a chance to give Santa Claus lists of the Christmas presents they want.

As ever with our strange constitution, you cannot tell this from the official explanation. The order paper for Thursday 20 December reads: "*ADJOURNMENT*: The Prime Minister: That this House do now adjourn. *Subjects proposed*..." Then follows a list of subjects. So you will not be surprised to learn, firstly, that the occasion had nothing at all to do with the prime minister. He was not even there. No prime minister ever is.

Secondly, that the debate was in no way connected with the adjournment of the House. That had already been decided, and scheduled for 3pm. The subject was never mentioned.

What we are all supposed to understand, and what the baffled faces of the poor souls peering down from the public gallery proved was understood not at all, is that the debates are (theoretically) arguments *against* the House adjourning, on the grounds that the MP moving the debate has some request to make first. This is never explained. All we hear is the requests.

Not all were selfish ones. Some of the boys and girls at Westminster wanted gifts for other boys and girls; some wanted gifts for themselves.

Gareth Wardell (Lab, Gower) wanted better treatment for leukaemia patients in Cardiff. Mr Wardell's lilt is an Englishman's dream of a Welsh accent, a sort of *Under Milk Wood Meets Parliament*. He wanted more beds, more anaesthetists, more nurses and more drugs. His crusade teetered, as Celtic crusades so often do, between the lily and the gilding.

Another kind of Celt followed, skidding just as giddily from the irresistible to the risible. Ian Paisley, addressing two men and a whip with a passion Demosthenes would have envied, reminded us of the security forces in Northern Ireland, "on the fine this Christmas, when the curly-headed lassie puts her arms around her daddy, not knowing whether he will come home." It was for the curly-headed lassie that Mr Paisley's Christmas request was made.

Next came Tom Pendry (Lab, Stalybridge & Hyde) with a more personal request. He called his debate "problems facing football," but his 20-minute plea can be summarised thus:

Dear Santa, All I want for Christmas is to be Labour's next spokesman on sport, now that Denis Howell is retiring. I realise that Kate Hoey – the new girl from Vauxhall – was a sports coach, and would be a popular choice, but honestly it's my turn next. I know an awful lot about it.

After an interlude – in which Colonel Michael Mates MP (C, Hampshire E) told junior minister Robert Key (it was more of an order than a request) that the boys in Ulster, Germany and the Gulf wanted in their Christmas stockings a note cancelling the poll tax – we moved on to hear Bill Walker (C, Tayside N) address Treasury minister Gillian Shephard, across a sea of empty benches, on the subject of Scotch whisky, and excise duty.

Mr Walker reminded Mrs Shephard and Mrs Shephard reminded Mr Walker (or, rather, they both reminded their constituents) that he didn't, and she didn't, drink whisky. Couldn't they both go home, then?

They did, eventually. We all did. Mr Deputy Speaker brought down the curtain at 2.59pm.

Somewhere up the scaffolding on the Victoria Tower, Father Christmas shook his head in bafflement at the list – "*nurses, anaesthetists, housing in Wakefield, proposed development of the A77, cuts in whisky duty, and a job for Mr Pendry*" – and pointed the reindeer for Moscow. He had received notice of a request of a more urgent kind.

Matthew Parris

Turkey asks Nato to send jet fighters

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

TURKEY has asked its Nato partners to send fighter aircraft from the alliance's Ace mobile force as a precaution against an attack from Iraq. If Nato approves, it will be the first time that the unit has become operational.

Earlier this week, Nato foreign ministers pledged that the alliance would defend Turkey if attacked. But no request for military assistance has been made until now.

Nato's founding charter commits all members to come to the aid of any member under attack. Sources said there would no question of using the aircraft in any attack on Iraq, which is outside Nato's traditional theatre of operations.

With the UN security council January 15 deadline for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait only 25 days away, Turkey clearly decided it needed a show of support from its allies. The air element of the Ace (allied command Europe) mobile force committed to the southern flank consists of aircraft from Belgium, Germany and Italy. There is also a small American component. British aircraft are committed to the northern flank, which is Norway.

The Ace mobile force, a rapid reaction unit set up in 1960, has soldiers and aircraft. But it was made clear yesterday that allied troops had not been requested. Turkey's appeal for aircraft is likely to be approved by Nato, according to sources.

EC fishing agreement

Continued from page 1

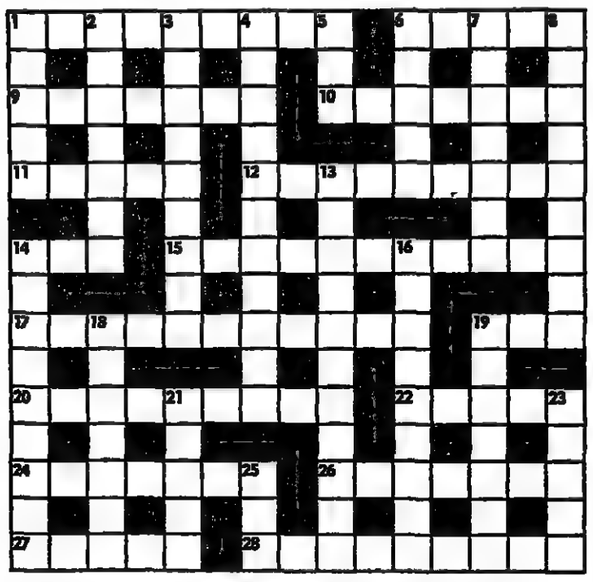
boats dependent on cod and haddock for more than 40 per cent of their catch to stay in port for 10 days each month. A new condition has now been added, exempting boats under 100 tonnes. That will reduce the number of Scottish and English vessels affected from 700 to fewer than 400.

John Gummer, the agriculture minister, said that under existing arrangements, British North Sea fishermen were restricted to 92 days of fishing a year. The monthly eight-day limit would allow them more fishing, would apply to all EC member states and be easier to enforce.

He said he had secured the agreement of the commission that, as an alternative to an eight-day lay-up, British fishermen could agree to use nets with a mesh of 100mm or 110mm. Research would be carried out to show that such nets could reduce the catch of small fish.

Mr Gummer won an increase in the British cod quota in the North Sea from the 40,210 tonnes proposed by Brussels to 43,970 tonnes, a decrease of less than five per cent on last year.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,483



ACROSS

1 It's likely 6 *ac* is up, having been disturbed (9).
6 Miss Wilfer, the beautiful Italian (5).
9 Morning sounds (3,4).
10 Mother became old and spoilt (7).
11 The chap superintending is out of his mind (5).
12 Pound note enclosed to replace bent terminal (6-3).
14 A bow to match (3).
15 Inspect obelisks in glare (4,7).
17 It assists the diver to go up rather than down (11).
19 Half an Indian town is turning into wet earth (3).
20 In retreat, ran down the King's rescuer (9).
22 American city without a ruler for ages (5).
24 Picture on the line is ornate illustration (7).
26 Suited the bumpkin to go outside (7).
27 Makes uniform for squares (5).
28 Insecure – has not been paid (9).

DOWN

1 One out of David's book for him, say (5).
2 Saké can set one squinting (7).
3 Not a period for the half-French settler (9).
4 Peripatetic seaside hairdresser? (11).
5 Stop a boundary (3).
6 It sounds a lot of money for a sweet (5).
7 Messenger taking English – he is gifted (7).
8 Prepared to strike, having made a speech (9).
13 Radio and TV flashes: "Women for Peace" (11).
14 Straight hit in international cricket – *go for a run* (4-5).
16 Fool is to play this (5,4).
18 Let go of a catch (7).
19 Camphor used in garment holder (7).
21 Looks for spectacles (5).
23 Having edges supported (5).
25 One tree's sound (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,482

PSYCHE FREEHAND
JUMBLESALE RAGE
BLANDISH HANGAR
JADE RENEGADE
PUBLICAN LAYS
ADHERE SKYPILOT
INCA ICEBREAKER
BESOUGHT DITHER

Concise Crossword, page 15

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

MYTHPLACEDLEMURES
a. A Trojan chieftain
b. A holocaust hecatomb
c. Ghosts of the dead

ECHIDNA
a. The Lydian Magna Mater
b. A snake woman
c. The Acropolis of Argos

NAUTES
a. Mesaline swimmer
b. Legendary king of Lydia
c. An old Trojan

GYGES
a. A legendary king of Lydia
b. A three-headed giant
c. Thracian anthropophagi

Answers on page 20

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks
C. London (within N & S Circs.).731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T. ..733
M-ways/roads Dartford T.-M23 734
M-ways/roads M23- M4 735
M25 London Orbital only.....736

Regional traffic and roadworks
National motorways.....737
West Country.....738
Wales 739
Midlands.....740
East Anglia 741
North-west England.....742
North-east England.....743
Scotland.....744
Northern Ireland.....745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Northern Ireland, Wales and western parts of England and Scotland will start the day with a lot of cloud. By the end of the afternoon, rain will come to southwest England, the Midlands and central and northwest Scotland. Eastern parts of England and Scotland have the promise of a dry day with some sunshine, but rain is expected here, too, by evening. Outlook: rain at times; mild but becoming rather windy.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	12	54	s	Majorca	14	57	f
Akrotiri	18	64	f	Malaga	14	57	c
Alex'dria	22	72	f	Malta	12	54	f
Algiers	-	-	-	Melb'rne	17	63	c
Amst'dm	0	32	sn	Mexico C	30	85	s
Athens	13	55	c	Miami	28	82	f
Bahrain	23	73	s	Milan	-2	28	fg
Barbados	27	81	f	Montreal	-	-	-
Barcelona	7	45	c	Moscow	-7	19	s
Belgrade	4	39	c	Munich	-3	27	sn
Berlin	0	32	sn	Nairobi	-	-	-
Bermuda	-	-	-	Naples	11	52	c
Biarritz	4	39	c	N Delhi	18	64	s
Bordx'x	2	36	f	N York	10	50	f
Brussels	-1	30	sn	Nice	10	50	s
Budapest	2	36	c	Oslo	1	34	sl
B Aires	25	77	s	Paris	0	32	sn
Cairo	21	70	s	Peking	1	34	c
Cape Tn	20	68	s	Perth	26	79	s
C'blanca	15	59	c	Prague	0	32	s
Chicago	2	36	c	Reykjvik	-7	19	f
Ch'church	20	68	c	Rhodes	16	61	c
Cologne	-1	30	sn	Rio de J	33	91	s
C'phagn	1	34	c	Riyadh	20	68	c
Corfu	12	54	f	Rome	9	48	s
Dublin	3	37	s	Salzburg	-1	30	s
Dubrovnik	13	55	s	S Frisco	8	46	r
Faro	11	52	c	Santiago	-	-	-
Florence	8	46	s	S Paulo	30	86	f
Frankfurt	-1	30	sn	Seoul	3	37	s
Funchal	15	59	f	Sing'por	27	81	f
Geneva	1	34	sn	Stkholm	0	32	d
Gibraltar	14	57	f	Strasb'rg	0	32	c
Helsinki	-1	30	d	Sydney	22	72	c
Hong K	20	68	c	Tangier	14	57	c
Innsbruck	-1	30	s	Tel Aviv	19	66	s
Istanbul	13	55	f	Tenerife	16	61	r
Jeddah	20	68	f	Tokyo	11	52	s
Jo'burg	26	79	s	Toronto	-1	30	c
Karachi	-	-	-	Tunis	15	59	s
L Palmas	20	68	f	Valencia	8	46	c
Le Touqt	3	37	c	Vanc'ver	-7	19	s
Lisbon	8	46	r	Venice	6	43	s
Locarno	-2	28	s	Vienna	0	32	s
L Angeles	13	55	r	Warsaw	-1	30	c
Luxembg	-3	27	c	Wash'ton	11	52	s
Luxor	26	79	s	Wel'ton	17	63	c
Madrid	6	43	s	Zurich	1	34	c

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	1.8	.02	5	41	shower
Anglesey	3.3	.01	8	46	shower
Aviemore	0.1	.02	4	39	sleet
Belfast	3.9	.02	6	43	shower
Birmingham	5.0	-	5	41	sunny
Blackpool	4.8	.03	6	43	shower
Bognor Regis	4.5	-	3	37	bright
Bournemouth	1.4	-	4	39	bright
Brighton	1.4	-	3	37	bright
Buxton	4.0	.02	3	37	snow
Cardiff	5.6	-	7	45	sunny
Clacton	0.2	.02	3	37	bright
Douglas	2.6	.09	7	45	bright
Edinburgh	4.2	-	6	43	sunny
Eskdalemuir	4.2	-	4	39	sunny
Exmouth	5.3	-	6	43	sunny
Falmouth	3.0	.01	8	46	bright
Folkestone	2.7	.02	4	39	snow
Guernsey	-	-	5	41	cloudy
Hastings	2.5	-	4	39	sunny
Hunstanton	2.6	-	5	41	sunny
Jersey	3.6	-	6	43	bright
Kinloss	0.4	.02	5	41	hail
Leeds	6.3	-	6	43	sunny
Lerwick	0.8	.09	3	37	snow
Lowestoft	0.4	.01	4	39	shower
Morecambe	3.1	.01	6	43	bright
Newcastle	-	.01	5	41	sunny
Newquay	2.4	.02	8	46	rain
Nottingham	5.6	-	5	41	sunny
Penzance	1.4	.09	9	48	shower
Plymouth	4.0	-	7	45	bright
Poole	2.6	-	5	41	sunny
Scarborough	5.8	-	5	41	sunny
Scilly Isles	2.5	.13	6	46	shower
Shanklin	1.3	-	3	37	cloudy
Southsea	1.3	-	4	39	cloudy
St. Ives	1.4	.07	9	48	cloudy
Sunnings	3.5	-	5	41	bright
Teignmouth	4.9	-	7	45	sunny
Tenby	2.7	.04	7	45	cloudy

Wednesday's figures are latest available

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 09C (48F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 03C (37F). Humidity: 6 pm, 89per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.03 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,012.8 millibars, falling.
1,000 millibars=29.53in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Wednesday: Highest day temp: Saunton Sands, Devon, 09C (48F); lowest day max: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries & Galloway, -03C (27F); highest rainfall: Sullomsee, Shetland Islands, and Kirkwall, Orkney Islands, 0.24 in; highest sunshine: Leeds, West Yorkshire, 6.3 hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 09C (48F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 03C (37F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.48 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, nil.

GLASGOW

Yesterday:Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 09C (48F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 04C (39F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.39 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.8 hr.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by *the appropriate code.*

Greater London.....701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex.....702
Dorset,Hants & IOW 703
Devon & Cornwall 704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms 705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon.....706
Beds,Herts & Essex 707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs 708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent .709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs.....710
Central Midlands.....711
East Midlands 712
Lincs & Humberside 713
Dyfed & Powys 714
Gwynedd & Clwyd 715
N W England.....716
W & S Yorks & Dales.....717
N E England 718
Cumbria & Lake District.....719
S W Scotland.....720
W Central Scotland.....721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders ..722
E Central Scotland.....723
Grampian & E Highlands 724
N W Scotland.....725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland ...726
N Ireland.....727

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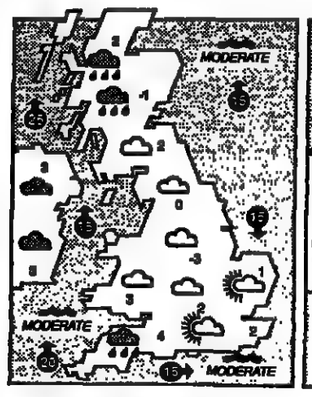
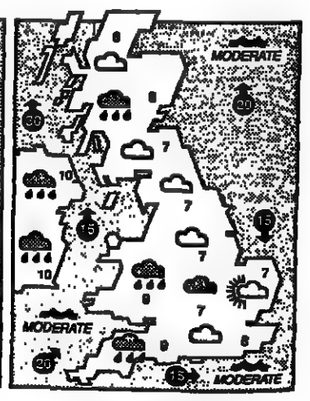
AM



PM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 3.54 pm to 8.04 am
Bristol 4.03 pm to 8.14 am
Edinburgh 3.40 pm to 8.43 am
Manchester 3.51 pm to 8.23 am
Penzance 3.52 pm to 8.19 am

Sun rises: 8.04 am | Sun sets: 3.54 pm
Moon rises 10.30 | Moon sets 8.26 pm

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	7	45	r	Guernsey	8	46	r
B'mngham	7	45	r	Inverness	6	43	c
Blackpool	8	46	r	Jersey	8	46	c
Bristol	8	46	r	London	7	45	r
Cardiff	8	46	r	M'nchster	7	45	r
Edinburgh	7	45	f	Newcastle	9	48	c
Glasgow	8	46	s	R'ndalway	9	48	s

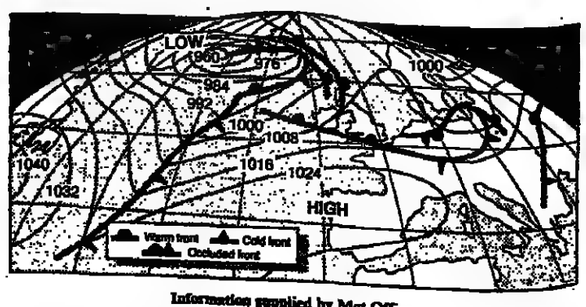
HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3.56	6.7	4.28	6.7
Aberdeen	3.42	3.9	3.31	4.1
Avonmouth	9.22	11.9	9.39	11.7
Belfast	1.04	3.2	1.18	3.5
Cardiff	9.07	11.1	9.24	10.9
Devonport	7.59	5.2	8.19	4.9
Dover	1.02	6.3	1.14	6.0
Falmouth	7.29	5.0	7.49	4.7
Glasgow	2.56	4.3	3.07	4.8
Harwich	1.44	3.7	2.12	3.7
Holyhead	10.34	5.0	12.36	5.3
Hull	8.36	6.7	8.39	7.0
Ilfracombe	8.08	8.5	8.25	8.2
King's Lynn	8.45	5.8	8.42	6.2
Leith	4.54	5.0	5.02	5.1

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Liverpool	1.13	8.5	1.28	8.8
Lowestoft	12.00	2.2	11.46	2.4
Margate	1.58	4.6	2.27	4.4
Milford Haven	8.27	6.4	8.44	6.1
Newquay	7.18	6.5	7.36	6.2
Oban	7.54	3.6	8.02	3.5
Penzance	7.02	5.3	7.28	4.9
Portland	8.56	2.0	9.22	1.7
Portsmouth	1.37	4.5	1.37	4.4
Shoreham	1.10	6.7	1.16	6.7
Southampton	1.02	4.2	1.09	4.2
Swansea	8.32	8.7	8.47	8.4
Tees	6.00	4.8	6.04	5.0
W'ton-on-Nze	1.35	3.9	2.06	3.9

Tide in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

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BUSINESS

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

FRIDAY DECEMBER 21 1990

Electricity's pulling power makes societies suffer

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

BUILDING societies suffered a net outflow of £308 million last month as a result of the electricity flotation, and this month's figure could be worse. In the first week of December, societies reported a greater outflow than for the whole of last month.

November was the first month that building society withdrawals exceeded deposits since July 1989, when Abbey National converted to a public company. The £308 million was the largest monthly outflow since September 1986, when the TSB was floated.

Mark Boleat, director-general of the Building Societies Association, said: "The electricity issue was several times oversubscribed and applications have therefore been sharply scaled back. Accordingly, much of the money withdrawn will be reinvested in societies as applicants have their cheques returned. Inflows should be further boosted over the coming months as a substantial number of small investors will probably sell their shares and invest the proceeds in societies.

"However, inflows from this source will not be significant in December because most electricity investors will be unable to sell their shares until they receive their interim share certificates due to be posted on or before December 19. The Christmas period and its likely disruptive impact on the postal service suggest that shares will not be sold until the new year. There will be a time lag, although much shorter, before cheques returned to disappointed applicants are reinvested in societies." Mr Boleat expected the introduction of tax-exempt special savings accounts in January would also boost savings figures.

Mortgage lending increased for the third month in succession, with net new commitments up £340 million to £3,858 million in November. Gross lending increased £144 million to £3,825 million.

Net new commitments were still 14 per cent lower than in the same month last year and gross advances almost 12 per cent lower.

The housing market was already in the doldrums at the end of 1989, after a series of mortgage rate increases.

Mr Boleat said: "Unless base rates drop sufficiently to allow a one-point reduction in mortgage rates, the mortgage and housing markets will remain subdued."

● The unit trust industry recorded a net inflow of £51 million in November, and funds under management increased by £323 million to £46.1 billion. Gross sales were £131.1 million down on the October figure and repurchases remained at the October level.

Bank lending up £7.5bn as recession bites

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BANK of England figures that showed a huge £7.5 billion rise in bank and building society lending in November caught the financial markets by surprise, arousing fears that credit is out of control again.

But, after second thoughts, the lending component of the money supply figures was read as further evidence of deepening recession, with companies forced into a degree of "distress borrowing".

This reinforced the message contained in M0, the narrow money supply measure targeted by the Treasury. This showed annual growth of 3.1 per cent in November, down from a seasonally adjusted 4 per cent in October, reflecting the dramatic slowdown in consumer spending.

Weekly notes data pointed to M0 dropping into the bottom half of its 1-5 per cent target growth range this month. In the week to December 19, notes, the bulk of M0, were 2.6 per cent up on the equivalent week last year.

Although the deceleration in M0 would earlier have justified a cut in base rates, membership of the European exchange-rate mechanism has made sterling, still weak, the main guide for monetary policy. The bank and building society lending figure, M4 lending, was far larger than the City's expectation of £4 billion. The original October rise of £4.6 billion has been adjusted to £6.8 billion. New adjustments have boosted the data, drawing a new lending profile for the year.

Simon Briscoe, UK economist at Midland Montagu, said that while the new adjustment explained most of the surge in lending, it left about £1 billion of the November increase unexplained. The adjusted series now showed M4 lending falling steeply from February to September, but starting to rise since in a "marked turn in trend".

He attributed the underlying rise to distress borrowing by companies, singling out transport, property, hotels and food and drink as sectors borrowing most.

Separately, Banking Information Service figures showed total clearing bank lending to the private sector rising about £4 billion after seasonal adjustment in November, up from an upwards-revised £2 billion in October, which was initially given as a small fall. But the BIS was reluctant to interpret the underlying trend, saying the seasonal adjustment involved over £3 billion.

The unadjusted figures showed typically City sectors to be the biggest borrowers. Gerard Lyons, chief economist at DKB International, saw the data indicating that the banks are continuing to support troubled firms, but said he expected them to have to "pull the rug" from under their clients in the none-too-distant future.

Lending to leasing companies increased by £600 million in November, to securities firms by £190 million, and to other financial institutions by £238 million. Personal lending was up £188 million, following a small fall in October, with house purchases accounting for only £45 million of the total.

Credit card borrowing, which showed a sharp increase in the latest consumer credit figures, was £48 million higher.

The gloomy picture of the British economy seen in the official figures is not alleviated by a report from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, which urges the Chancellor not to cut taxes in the budget for fear of stoking up inflation. But while it sees the economy stagnating through next summer, with a 0.5 per cent decline in GNP in the second half this year, it expects a return to 0.8 per cent growth in the first half next year, giving full-year growth of 0.7 per cent, broadly in line with the Chancellor's autumn statement.

In 1992, growth climbs back to 1.9 per cent, leaving Britain below the OECD average of 2.5 per cent. Unemployment is expected to rise from this year's 5.8 per cent to 6.2 per cent next year and 6.6 per cent in 1992.

The report says it would seem desirable that the fiscal stance, steering the economy through the balance between public spending and taxation, should not be eased in coming months.

It meanwhile sees membership of the ERM offering potentially great benefits, but describes it as an "ambitious strategy" for Britain, implying a medium-tem commitment to bringing inflation down and keeping it there.

● First National Bank of Chicago, one of America's largest commercial banks, became the country's first big lending institution to cut its prime lending rate in almost a year, after this week's move by the Federal Reserve Board to stimulate a weakening economy by lowering its discount rate (Susan Ellicott writes from Washington).

First National said it would immediately lower its prime rate to 9.5 per cent from 10 per cent. Financial analysts expect other big banks to follow suit, despite an initial reluctance to diminish their profits by cutting the benchmark loan rate.

The move followed a report from the Commerce Department showing that American business production is expected to increase by a revised marginal inflation-adjusted 0.4 per cent next year, the weakest annual rate in five years.

In a television interview, Nicholas Brady, the treasury secretary, declined to use the word "recession" to describe the US economy "because it conjures up in a lot of people's minds some final, awful ending to the growth and job creation we've had". He said the country was entering a cyclical downturn that would end next year.

Comment, page 25
OECD kick-start, page 25
Stock market, page 26

THE POUND

US dollar
1.9080 (-0.0235)
German mark
2.8605 (+0.0071)
Exchange index
93.0 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1687.2 (-19.9)
FT-SE 100
2158.8 (-19.9)
New York Dow Jones
2630.45 (+3.72)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
24524.94 (-351.84)
Closing Prices ... Page 27
Major indices and major changes Page 26

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 14%
3-month interbank 14-13 15/16%
3-month eligible bills: 13 5/16-13 3/16%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 7 1/16%*
3-month Treasury Bills 6.51-6.49%*
30-year bonds 106 1/32-106 1/16*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.9080	£: $1.9075*
£: DM2.8605	$: DM1.5013*
£: SwFr2.4580	$: SwFr1.2895*
£: FFr9.7394	$: FFr5.1045*
£: Yen257.10	$: Yen134.88*
£: Index93.0	$ Index61.3
ECU £0.711441	SDR £0.740440
£: ECU1.405597	£: SDR1.350548

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $384.45 pm-$385.45
close $385.20-385.70 (£200.80-201.60)
New York:
Comex $386.25-386.75*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) ..... $27.50 bbl ($27.80)
* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.56	2.41
Austria Sch	21.15	19.75
Belgium Fr	62.10	58.10
Canada $	2.335	2.185
Denmark Kr	11.58	10.88
Finland Mkk	7.32	6.87
France Fr	10.17	9.57
Germany Dm	2.995	2.805
Greece Dr	319	299
Hong Kong $	15.47	14.67
Ireland Pt	1.128	1.058
Italy Lira	2260	2120
Japan Yen	271.50	255.50
Netherlands Gld	3.375	3.165
Norway Kr	11.75	11.05
Portugal Esc	264.50	248.50
South Africa Rd	5.20	4.70
Spain Pta	189.75	177.75
Sweden Kr	11.28	10.60
Switzerland Fr	2.565	2.405
Turkey Lira	5800	5400
USA $	2.01	1.89
Yugoslavia Dnr	27.50	20.50

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 130.0 (November)

Freed on bail: Asil Nadir, Polly Peck's chairman, returns to his Mayfair home yesterday after producing £2 million

Power to cost more after rise in levy

By PHILIP BASSETT

ELECTRICITY prices are set to rise after a decision by the power industry watchdog to increase the levy designed to compensate the electricity industry for having to use higher-cost nuclear power.

Though the electricity price rise flowing from the increase in the fossil fuel levy will be marginal, the fact that the levy has to be increased at all runs counter to government claims that it will decline over the next eight years. The levy was introduced by the government as part of its privatisation programme for the electricity industry with the aim of bridging the gap between the cost of generating electricity from nuclear and fossil-fuel power stations.

When John Wakeham, the energy secretary, earlier this year announced that the levy would be fixed at 10.6 per cent for 1990-91, he forecast that it would be cut by about a third over the next eight years. But Professor Stephen Littlechild, director-general of the Office of Electricity Regulation (Offer), said yesterday that because of shortfalls in the levy this year, the levy for 1991-92 would be 11 per cent - an increase of 3.7 per cent.

Fax message helps free Nadir for Christmas

By STEPHEN LEATHER

A FAX machine helped Asil Nadir, the chairman of Polly Peck, walk free from prison yesterday afternoon after he finally produced the £2 million in cash he needed for his record bail.

Officials at Bow Street magistrates court sent a fax message to James Perriss, the governor of London's Wormwood Scrubs jail, confirming that the Turkish Cypriot-born businessman had met his bail conditions.

Normally release documents have to be delivered to the prison by hand, but Mr Nadir's papers were faxed to the prison after being signed by magistrates so that he could spend Christmas at home. The court is closing for the holiday period and officials would not have been able to process his bail papers until after the break.

Mr Nadir, aged 47, who faces 18 charges of theft and false accounting involving £25 million, was allowed to leave by a contractor's entrance at the side of the prison in a Datsun mini-cab so that he could avoid reporters and photographers waiting outside. He was taken to his Mayfair townhouse where he met his former wife Aysegul who had put up £500,000 to bail him.

Mr Nadir, who has consistently denied wrongdoing, was arrested on his return to Britain on Saturday by police attached to the Serious Fraud Office which was investigating his fresh fruit-to-electronics company.

He spent five days in custody, three of them in a tiny shared cell in the Victorian jail.

Mr Nadir was remanded until January 28, but the case is not expected to be ready for committal by then. His £3.5 million bail was set by Sir David Hopkin, chief metropolitan magistrate, at Bow Street magistrates court on Monday. Mr Nadir was required to provide sureties of £1.5 million, which have been promised, and £2 million in cash which had to be deposited with his solicitors.

Mr Nadir must live and sleep at his home at Aldford Street, Mayfair, report daily to Savile Row police station and surrender all of his passports "British and otherwise" to police. He is also forbidden to apply for any travel documents and must not contact any prosecution witnesses.

Polly Peck collapsed two months ago with debts estimated at £1.3 billion.

De Beers signs diamond accord

By Our MINING CORRESPONDENT

IN ITS second multi-million dollar agreement since its formation in March, the Swiss-based arm of the De Beers diamond group yesterday said it will advance $50 million to Angola and initiate a technical co-operation agreement to help rehabilitate Angolan diamond fields.

In July, De Beers Centenary signed an exclusive five-year sales and co-operation agreement with the Soviet Union that additionally involved a secured advance by De Beers of $1 billion.

The Angolan accord, to be formally signed in January, includes plans for De Beers exclusively to help explore for and develop potential new sources of diamonds in Angola, a country which traditionally is one of the world's richest producers, with an annual production of 1 million carats worth $200 million.

Yesterday's agreement is the culmination of two years of negotiations that started in 1989 between Nicholas Oppenheimer, De Beers' deputy chairman, and officials of Endiama, Angola's state diamond marketing arm, at a time when De Beers was solely a South African group and when black African business dealings with South Africa were an anathema.

De Beers Centenary said Angolan production will be channelled for sale through the Central Selling Organisation, the De Beers' marketing arm.

Should a kimberlite diamond "pipe" be found that was economical to develop, it could mean a capital outlay of $1 billion.

De Beers Centenary, in co-operation with Angolan finance, would be expected to fund a percentage of such a development.

De Beers shares rose 31p to £10½p.

Ansbacher made loan to Levitt

By GEORGE SIVELL

HENRY Ansbacher, the merchant bank, revealed it had lent £4.7 million to Roger Levitt, founder of the financial services company that went into liquidation last week.

Yesterday, Ansbacher said it was still working out how big a provision to make against the loan, which was made to Mr Levitt in a personal capacity and which is only partly covered by realisable assets.

Mr Levitt last week made a petition for personal bankruptcy, which means his assets are in the hands of the official receiver and protected from various creditors. He has been bailed for £500,000 on charges of the theft of £665,000.

Last year, Ansbacher made pre-tax profits of £10.1 million, its best ever, but said that it would do little better than break even in the second half of the current year.

During the first half Ansbacher made £5.1 million before tax. An initial profits warning was given this month.

Ansbacher shares held steady at 62p after yesterday's announcement.

Solving the problem of insolvency

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

IN A MOVE that underlines the pressures imposed on companies by the recession, the Institute of Directors has published emergency guidelines to members on the implications of the 1986 Insolvency Act.

The IoD cautions directors to avoid being "panicked" into insolvency procedures at the first sign of trouble. But it also urges them to be aware of their trading position and to take action at the first sign of difficulty.

The IoD believes the severity of the penalties of the 1986 Act, which renders directors personally liable if they knowingly trade while their [illegible] the rising trend of company failures. According to trade department figures, the number of liquidations in the second quarter was 20 per cent higher than the same period of 1989, at 3,356.

Peter Morgan, IoD director-general, said it was essential that members studied the guidelines before the end of the year, when banks tend to make up their accounts and review debts.

"1991 is going to be a difficult year for many companies and small businesses," he said. "It is important that directors should be aware of the avenues open to them which fall short of the irrevocable step of liquidation."

The core of the IoD's advice to its 40,000 members is the need to take professional advice. It cautions that non-executive directors, in particular, "may be too ready to deliver a company into the hands of its bankers with an invitation to appoint a receiver, to seek an administration order, or, indeed, to initiate the company's liquidation".

The 1986 Insolvency Act was based on a report by Sir Kenneth Cork. It aimed to discourage fraudsters and to provide a framework within which companies in difficulties could more easily be rescued. However, the IoD has long argued that the act's sanctions may encourage directors to throw in the towel too early.

In addition to the loss of personal assets, directors who commit "wrongful trading" can be disqualified from [illegible] holding directorships for up to 15 years.

The IoD's guidelines highlight parts of the act that relieve directors of personal liability if they take "every step" available to minimise potential loss to creditors.

Companies should be able to present creditors with an accurate statement of their affairs and a business plan, it says. "If the company's proposals are realistic, creditors will frequently welcome them." The guidelines do not end on a happy note, though. "If insolvency proceedings are inevitable, the directors should ensure they begin as early as possible."

Comment, page 25

ECC amends Georgia Kaolin offer

By COLIN CAMPBELL

ECC Group has re-negotiated its earlier planned $520 million purchase of the industrial minerals concern Georgia Kaolin in America from Asea Brown Boveri (ABB), thus avoiding possible American anti-monopoly moves.

The amended deal, originally struck in May, follows extensive talks with America's justice department and means ECC now pays $340 million for only certain assets of Georgia Kaolin.

Andrew Teare, ECC's chief executive, says the amended deal is still advantageous and gives ECC ownership of 130 million tons of kaolin reserves. It brings the group strategic advantages in the world of industrial minerals, and funding should not dilute ECC's earnings.

The group continues to sell non-core interests as part of its re-organisation programme, and so far has raised £53 million from asset sales. Additional proceeds are expected shortly.

ECC, formerly English China Clays, is changing its year end from September to end-December, and will be reporting for a 15-month period in March.

Georgia Kaolin produces pigments for a variety of industrial applications, the most important of which is paper manufacturing.

ABB, the seller, will retain Georgia Kaolin's operations known as Dry Branch, south-west of the properties being sold. Mr Teare said ECC originally wanted to acquire all three plants, and had fought off intense international competition before signing the original, but conditional, agreement with ABB in May. At that time, analysts were concerned at the high price ECC was prepared to pay for Georgia, a price nearly 17 times historic earnings. Mr Teare said "the world has changed since May".

Tempus, page 25

IMI stake raised to 41.5%

IMI, the engineering group, says it has 41.5 per cent of Birmingham Mint shares under its control. Since raising its offer to 95p on Wednesday, IMI has acquired 36.7 per cent of its target's shares in the market and a further 4.76 per cent acceptances. The proposed £13.6 million takeover has been cleared by the Office of Fair Trading.

Kelt still talking

Kelt Energy, the highly geared independent oil company, is continuing talks with its bankers, owed almost $330 million, after failing to attract substantial offers for its principal assets. Tempus, page 25

Flextech rises

Flextech, the oil services and cable and satellite television group, made pre-tax profits of £3.1 million (£2.2 million) in the six months to end-September. The interim dividend is up 39 per cent to 6.4p.

Tempus, page 25

Stagecoach told to sell part of Hastings operation

By Ross Tieman
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER LILLEY, the trade secretary, has ordered Stagecoach Holdings, the acquisitive bus operator, to hold talks aimed at selling part of its operation in the Hastings area of East Sussex.

His decision signals a determination to follow the path of his predecessor, Nicholas Ridley, who sought to stem the concentration of bus service ownership that has been developing since deregulation. It has wide-ranging implications for the bus industry, which is struggling to cope with high interest rates and wafer-thin profit margins.

Mr Lilley has given Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of the Office of Fair Trading, two months to explore with Stagecoach the possibility of divesting part of its Hastings area operation to stimulate competition. In doing so, he has rejected a recommendation from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. An MMC report, published yesterday by Mr Lilley, found that the purchase by Stagecoach of Formia, a holding company for Hastings and District Transport, may be expected to operate against the public interest. But, the MMC concluded, "it would not be appropriate to recommend the divestment of H&D from Stagecoach". It said: "Divestment is likely to mean that in this limited area the existing dominant supplier merely gives way to another, and would also risk disruption of services and inconvenience to passengers while the change is being effected."

Instead, the MMC suggested a package of undertakings from Stagecoach, designed to prevent predatory pricing and contain fare increases.

But Mr Lilley said: "I am not persuaded that these remedies would, on their own, be sufficient to deal with the consequences of the loss of competition caused by the merger."

Stagecoach declined to comment until it had studied the MMC report. The deregulation of the bus industry was triggered by the Transport Act 1985. Since then there have been six MMC merger inquiries into bus company takeovers. Four have been blocked, one allowed and the sixth, into the purchase by Caldaire Holdings of Blue Bird Securities, which operates services in Durham and Cleveland, still being studied by Mr Lilley.

Stagecoach, a Perth company headed by Ann Gloag, has emerged as one of the most acquisitive groups. Its sales have grown from £3.5 million in the year to end-April 1985 to a provisional £98.4 million in the year ending April, 1990, the MMC report says. During the same period, profit before interest and tax has risen from £315,000 to £7.5 million.

Stagecoach has made 14 acquisitions, culminating in the purchase of H&D, completed in December 1989. There have been four disposals. According to the MMC, Stagecoach is now one of the largest bus companies in the United Kingdom, commanding four per cent of the market.

However, the MMC figures show that finance charges swallow most of its profits, and interest cover has been reduced to just 1.3 times. The profit margin on turnover has shown a steady decline, from a peak 14.2 per cent in 1986 to 6.9 per cent in 1990. During the same period, return on capital has fallen from 25.1 per cent to 11 per cent.

In August 1989, Stagecoach bought Southdown, a former National Bus company subsidiary, which provides services along the south coast from Brighton to Eastbourne. Southdown had been bought by its management in October 1987, but after an initial profit, soon lapsed into loss. After the buyout Stagecoach set up a joint-venture company, Hastings Topline, to compete with Hastings and District. Buying H&D gave Stagecoach a virtual monopoly over services in the Hastings area.

Sears in £68m properties sale to Great Portland

By Jonathan Prynn

SEARS, the shoe shop and department store group, is selling 30 retailing, office and warehouse properties to Great Portland Estates, the property investment company, for £68.7 million.

The sale continues Sears' policy of disposal of its investment properties and marks the latest move in a big rationalisation programme, which also involves closing 200 of its 1,500 retail outlets.

Rental income from the properties, which have a book value of £72.7 million and are spread throughout the UK, was forecast at about £5.7 million in the year to end-January 1991.

Sears will realise a profit over original cost of £21 million from the sale, which will be shown in Sears' accounts for this financial year. Richard Peskin, Great Portland Street chairman and managing director, said the properties had been valued by Hillier Parker at more than the purchase price.

The consideration is being met through £21.2 million in cash and the issue to Sears of 19 million ordinary shares in Great Portland and £4.5 million of loan stock.

Sears has already sold half the ordinary shares and all the loan stock, realising £24.5 million.

But Sears has committed itself to retaining the remaining 9.5 million shares, which represent about 5 per cent of Great Portland's issued ordinary share capital, for at least a year.

Geoffrey Maitland Smith, chairman of Sears, said the annual dividend on the Great Portland shares, combined with the interest saving from the cash proceeds, would be "significantly in excess of the rental income arising from the sold properties".

Most of the properties are retail outlets let to third parties, including two in Oxford Street, central London. Mr Peskin said the majority of the investments will be retained for long-term investment but some smaller units are likely to be traded in the next two years. Sears shares fell 3p to 83p while Great Portland lost 7p to 219p.

Appletree poised to go private

By Jonathan Prynn

APPLETREE Holdings, the beef processing group, is effectively taking itself private through an Ir£9.6 million (£8.9 million) management buyout of The Kildare Group, its sole remaining trading operation.

Kildare, which is involved in cattle slaughtering and beef processing in Ireland, is being acquired by a consortium comprising David Johnson, deputy chairman of Appletree, Tom McParland, chief executive of the Kildare Group, and Courtline Holdings, a company jointly owned by them.

The purchase price represents an exit multiple of 7.3 times last year's post-tax profits of Ir£1.3 million.

The company said that it had been unable to find other purchasers for Kildare because of the adverse publicity surrounding the Irish beef industry, which had culminated in the appointment of an examiner to the Goodman Group.

Proceeds from the sale will be used to pay off Appletree's borrowings, leaving it with net assets of £17.3 million, mainly in the form of cash deposits.

Appletree intends to return the cash to shareholders and cancel the shares of all shareholders, except those held directly by Mr Johnson and in family trusts, which between them control 31.5 per cent.

The directors estimate shareholders will receive 95p per share, compared with yesterday's share price of 75p.

Appletree also announced pre-tax profits of £2.5 million for the six months to end September, against £1.9 million for the same period last year. An interim dividend of 1.5p compares with 1.1p in 1989.

TONY LARKIN

Meeting demand: Noel Fleury (right) and Vin Ghandi, whose childcare business supplies Mothercare

Managers adopt Bissell childcare

THE managing director and finance director of the childcare operations of Bissell Appliances, have put together a £7.5 million management buyout of their division, which manufactures plastic goods such as babies' feeding bottles and high chairs (Gillian Bowditch writes).

Bissell Appliances is a subsidiary of Bissell Inc. of America, which makes household goods and carpet cleaning products.

The buyout of the childcare division by Noel Fleury, the managing director, and Vin Ghandi, the finance director, has been backed by 3i, the venture capital group, MIM Development Capital and County NatWest Ventures, which together have provided £3.3 million.

County NatWest's finance division has put up another £2.6 million in the form of a loan and the management team has subscribed for 51 per cent of the equity.

The business, which has a factory in north London, is a supplier to Mothercare and Boots. Mr Fleury said: "The buyout of the childcare division was possible since it was a non-core activity. In this market, one needs to be able to respond quickly to an opportunity and we will now be able to make these decisions more effectively than before."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Sotheby's sales down 17.5% to $2.43 billion

DEPRESSED conditions in the fine art world reduced worldwide sales at Sotheby's Holdings, the auction house, by 17.5 per cent to $2.43 billion in 1990. Michael Ainslie, president and chief executive officer, said sales during the key autumn season fell from $1.51 billion to $751 million. Last week, the company, which is controlled by the Taubman family from America, said it was closing two UK branches and making 80 staff redundant.

On Wednesday Christies International, the rival fine arts house, reported a 50 per cent fall in autumn sales from a record £675 million in 1989 to £334 million and announced its directors' fees were being frozen to reduce costs. Said Mr Ainslie: "In analysing our sales results this year it is probable that with the perspective of history the sales explosion of 1989 will be viewed as the exception and the levels of 1990 seen as the beginning of a return to normalcy."

Vickers stake not referred

PETER Lilley, the trade secretary, has decided not to refer the purchase of a 20.04 per cent stake in Vickers by IEP Securities of New Zealand to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. He acted on advice from Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of fair trading, who is obliged to examine the implications when a holding has voting rights over more than 20 per cent of the shares.

Regulators agree merger

THE Securities Association and the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers have voted in favour of merger. Of the AFBD membership, 211 voted in favour and 23 against, while 384 TSA members agreed and 21 objected. The move will simplify regulation in the City and reduce duplication. The new body will be called the Securities and Futures Authority and will come into existence on April 1.

TGI ahead to £1.16m

TGI, the electrical products manufacturer, has reported a 5 per cent improvement in pre-tax profits from £1.11 million to £1.16 million for the six months to end-September. Turnover increased by 4 per cent to £26.3 million and earnings per share increased from 3.9p to 4.2p. The company said manufacturing operations had continued to perform well. However, the factored products division made a £134,000 loss and the company is to withdraw from these activities.

Following the withdrawal, the company will be able to devote its full attention to the manufacturing companies, which are operating profitably and have strong export markets. The interim dividend is held at 2.2p.

Foseco shares lose 7p

SHARES in Foseco fell 7p to 286p ahead of today's 1pm deadline for acceptances for Burmah Castrol's 300p a share cash offer, which values the speciality chemicals group at £259 million. The outcome of the hostile bid is thought to be finely balanced after a decision by M&G Fund Management to reject the offer in respect of its 10 per cent holding. Burmah has acquired just under 30 per cent in the market.

Kemp passes dividend

PE Kemp Holdings, the Third Market quoted theatrical engineer and scenery maker, has fallen further into the red with pre-tax losses of £421,561 for the year to end-October, compared with a £381,513 loss for the same period last year. Turnover was almost unchanged at £3.1 million. Kemp said there is no final or interim dividend, compared with a total payout of 0.5p last year.

Savage's troubles end

THE troubles at Savage Group, the USM-quoted hardware company, appear to be over after the resolution to remove David Stephens, the finance director, was defeated at the group's extraordinary meeting. At the annual meeting that followed, all the resolutions were passed, including the re-election of Douglas Rogers, the chairman, Tony Philipson, chief executive, and Alan Wainwright, marketing director.

The problems at the group started with a collapse in profits from £7.3 million to £51,000 and a huge rise in borrowings to £27 million, giving gearing of almost 100 per cent. Shares in the company fell 1p to 43p.

News Corp replies on share fall

RUPERT Murdoch, chief executive of The News Corporation, the international media group, said News Corp was pleased with the progress of negotiations for the rescheduling of its debt. His remarks followed a sharp fall in the shares of The News Corporation in Australia.

In a statement in response to a formal query from the Australian Stock Exchange over the share movement, which was attributed to rumours over the debt talks, News Corp said it knew of no reason for the price fall.

Mr Murdoch said: "A majority of banks and other lenders to the group have already indicated agreement to the terms of the group's proposal." Some delay is understood to have been caused by the reluctance of some small lenders to join in the restructuring.

In Australia, News Corp shares fell 20 per cent on the day to Aus$4.35, their lowest closing price for five years.

In London, News Corp's quotation dropped from 215p to 173p. Shares of News International, the British subsidiary, fell by 7 per cent to 115p.

Clydesdale names new chairman

By Gillian Bowditch

CHRISTMAS is a time for letting bygones be bygones. Sir David Nickson, the ex-chairman of Scottish & Newcastle Breweries who resigned his directorship of Clydesdale Bank two years ago after finding himself with an embarrassing conflict of loyalties, is to become the bank's new chairman.

Sir David resigned the post after *The Times* revealed that Clydesdale's parent bank, the National Australia Bank, was helping to fund Elders IXL's £1.6 billion bid for the Scottish brewer. Sir David had been unaware of NAB's £100 million loan to Elders to help finance the bid.

Conflict over: Sir David

Tempers ran high north of the border during the hostile takeover battle, which the monopolies commission eventually blocked. Some S&N employees closed their accounts at the Royal Bank of Scotland, which had also helped to finance Elders' bid.

Sir David, who is still a non-executive director of S&N although no longer chairman, rejoined the Clydesdale board last month and is currently deputy chairman. He will become non-executive chairman at the end of 1991, succeeding Sir Eric Yarrow, who has been a director of Clydesdale for 28 years, deputy chairman for ten and chairman for five years.

Sir David is also chairman of the Scottish Development Agency and Scottish Enterprise, and a director of Dunedin Fund Managers, Edinburgh Investment Trust, General Accident, Grampian Properties, Hambros and Property Estates and Reversion Co.

Recession registered at Electra

ELECTRA Investment Trust, which specialises in smaller and unquoted companies, beat the all-share index in the year to end September, but has suffered subsequently from the unpopularity of small company shares brought on by fears about the recession.

The fully diluted net asset value fell 15.6 per cent to 292p per share, against a 17.7 per cent drop in the all-share index over the 12 months to end September. But asset value fell to 289p per share over the two months to end November, while the market recovered. Over the 14 months, fully diluted asset value fell 16.5 per cent against 11.8 per cent for the all-share index.

Michael Stoddart, the chairman, said asset value had also been affected by writedowns of shares in unlisted companies with property related operations and by the effect of a stronger pound on the American portfolio.

The dividend rises 10.9 per cent to 6.1p from earnings per share up 13.7 per cent at 9.5p per share. Pre-tax profit rose 14 per cent to £14.3 million.

Manx authorities criticised over SIB

By Ronald Faux

THE attorney general of the Isle of Man, William Cain, and the Manx police have been criticised for lack of action after the inspector's report on the Savings and Investment Bank (SIB) collapse.

A report by ATK May QC into events after the collapse of the bank in 1982 was handed to government officials.

The case against eight of the bank's principals or advisers charged with fraud was abandoned this year because of the lapse of time between the bank's collapse and the hearing.

The 150-page report by Mr May said that on receipt of the inspector's report on May 29, 1986, the attorney general did not formulate a strategic plan.

He gave the police no strategic guidance and, when he did ask them to do anything, his requests were imprecise and unconfirmed, said the report by Mr May.

The Isle of Man police, the report said, had some responsibility for the inactivity after delivery of the report by the inspector, appointed under the company act, which gave prima facie evidence of criminal activity.

Mr May's report states: "Having been asked by the attorney general to consider what should be done, they did nothing in the following months more effective than to liaise with the Metropolitan police, with the result that nothing of consequence happened for six and a half months."

A statement by the Manx Council of Ministers yesterday said that much had been done on the island to improve matters since the bank's collapse. This came in the form of legislation and by extra resources provided to the police and the attorney general's office.

The Council of Ministers had asked the First Deemsder, the senior judge on the island, to consider the report and advise the council on whether there were any changes that should be made to insular legislation or procedures in the light of the enquiry's conclusions.

Workers force out Trabant's managers

By Wolfgang Münchau
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE TOP mangement of eastern Germany's most notorious company, the makers of the two-stroke Trabant cars, has resigned amid a bitter conflict with car workers.

Dieter Voigt and Wolfgang Neef, the chairman and general manager of Sachsenring, the subsidiary of IFA Pkw, the motor conglomerate, have tendered their resignation after workers stormed into their offices to express their dissatisfaction with the way the company is run. The company will cease to exist in its current form by the middle of next year.

It is not exactly Western practice for managers to resign because of worker dissatisfaction, but in former East Germany, old habits are dying hard. Worker discontent over the future of the company and pay levels has been mounting recently and culminated in a letter by the metalworkers' union, in which the 9,000 workers said they no longer had confidence in the management.

The resignations will need to be approved by the Treuhandanstalt, the trustee of the former East Germany's corporate sector.

The company plans to produce a final round of 10,000 Trabant cars, which might become collector's items, providing they do not rust away beforehand.

The car became a symbol of new-found freedom after the fall of the Berlin Wall last year, when many thousands of them drove into West Berlin and on to the West German motorways. In what was West Germany, the Trabant was voted "car of the year 1989", but it is likely to be banned from the roads because it fails the Germany's stringent emission tests.

When the Trabant is finally extinct the factory will produce parts, including exhaust pipes and car seats, for the

Yellow cows lead the stampede for Shanghai shares

Shanghai

BULLS and bears may be the symbols of joy and sorrow on Western stock markets but in Shanghai, where trading has resumed after a break of more than 40 years, beware of the "yellow cows".

With a whiff of easy money in the air, the Chinese herds are gathering. Thousands of people queued this week, some for two days and nights, to buy a new issue of corporate shares that will be traded on Shanghai's new securities exchange. Many were paid to queue by black marketeers, known in China as "yellow cows", who operate their own highly lucrative but illegal exchange.

Proud of their past as the financial hub of Asia before the 1949 Communist revolution, the people of Shanghai are being swept again by share-buying fever. "I lined up for a day and a night," said a young worker outside a branch of Shanghai International Securities Company, which ics. He waved in the air a slip of paper that will act as a lottery ticket.

The issue was so oversubscribed that at this outlet only 800 out of 1,500 people were given a ticket and only 240 will receive their shares.

"Pay a little money, buy a little knowledge," quipped another Shanghainese who said he had no idea what he was buying but knew he could not lose. "Our socialist system guarantees that these companies cannot go bankrupt. It's a social question — with 1.1 billion Chinese you'd have so many unemployed." Another worker jumped in: "It's patriotic to buy shares and you get rich."

The figures bear out their faith in the system, Shi Jianping, deputy manager of the outlet, said after ushering out of his office two policemen looking for "yellow cows". New shares in Shenhua Electronics, he said, were being issued at 150 yuan ($28). But on Wednesday, when the Shanghai Securities Exchange opened snatched up for more than double. On the black market they sell for 500 yuan.

Mr Shi said: "The authorities are protecting the interests of the people by setting a low price. They believe the market price is inflated."

"People are not psychologically prepared for stock markets and can be shocked by big losses." Some of the "big yellow cows" driving up prices were believed to be from Hong Kong and Taiwan, Mr Shi said.

As Shanghai tries to re-establish itself as the driving financial force in China, its reforms held back by hard-line party ideologues in Peking, the main problem is matching demand. For the moment the new exchange is trading only 30 issues of securities. Only eight are corporate stocks, the rest are bonds. Shenhua is capitalised at only 5.65 million yuan, according to Mr Shi.

Gong Haocheng, president of the Shanghai branch of the People's Bank change, said he hoped more corporate stocks would soon be issued to soak up excess liquidity. "There are 700 billion yuan in bank savings accounts nationwide," he said. "With such a large amount, and deposit accounts as the only means of saving, you can't meet demand. People want financial instruments with higher risk and higher return. They wish to buy bonds and stocks." He added: "I am confident the exchange will develop in a steady and healthy way."

About a million of Shanghai's 13 million people have bought or sold bonds or stocks since the city authorised the first official brokerage to open in 1986. Today there are about 50 of the shop-like outlets in the city attracting crowds who watch prices marked up on blackboards.

Foreign bankers at the securities exchange opening ceremony said insider trading within China's normally secretive system could pose a threat to the future of its embryonic

ESS ROUNDUP

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Regulators agree merg

Kemp passes dividend

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roubles end

Workers force out Trabant's managers

A nugget of received wisdom from IoD

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

The ill wind syndrome is seldom more vividly illustrated than when corporate Britain is calling in the receivers. As successive layers of creditors tumble like dominoes, the main accountancy firms put on fees and fat and the partners heading their insolvency units acquire a celebrity status. The comings and goings of the accountants handling the Polly Peck administration are followed as they take their trips to Cyprus and back. Men in a normally grey profession are turned into expert sleuths on the trail of millions, turning over stones, taking away documents, locking offices and sacking staff. They are not grey men any more, but hard men, dedicated seekers after cash, righters of wrongs.

The trouble is, however, they are not necessarily the best people to extract the maximum value for shareholders and creditors. They come in as outsiders, expert at balance sheets no doubt and familiar with figures, debts and the placing of display advertisements for hotels and machine tools whose proprietors have bitten the financial dust. But, as outsiders, they cannot have the depth of knowledge that might allow the company to trade out of trouble.

Take, in particular, the case of a property company casualty. Property company directors have a tendency to look after the assets side of the balance sheet, but to allow the liabilities side to look after itself. When this leads to trouble, a team of accountants comes in to deal with the liabilities, but once the financial difficulties become public knowledge, the value of the assets crumbles. Half completed developments are likely to have a negative value. Sites in the process of painstaking assembly are likely to be broken up. Reversionary value in leases can be lost.

The latest advice from the Institute of Directors for companies to explore alternative courses of action before calling in the receivers or instigating formal insolvency proceedings is therefore worth considering. However, the audience addressed by the Institute of Directors is the wrong one, unless it is thinking of bank directors. In most cases, it seems to be the banks that force the hand of the companies. The banks believe they can best secure their own position by getting their hands on the assets, rather than allowing the directors time and space to do what is best for creditors as a whole.

Dax excuses

Had James Baker resigned as American secretary of state, the Frankfurt stock market would probably not have cared less, but the resignation of Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, led to an outbreak of petulance, during which the Dax-index lost some 3.3 per cent.

The 48 point fall was less related to the increasing economic and political ties between the two countries than to the unspoken worries about the domestic economy. The men in Frankfurt were merely waiting for external signals to provide an excuse. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was another example of the same phenomenon. Then the Dax also fell more than any other European stock index, even though the Middle East conflict has no more an effect on Germany than on anyone else.

Even if Mr Shevardnadze's worst nightmare of a Soviet dictatorship came true, this would have no impact on company profits, any more than German unification could have had the positive impact signalled in the markets a year ago.

Then the Dax rose from about 1,400 to a height of almost 2,000 in the spring and all the way back again as reality intervened. Even some of the more obscure European Community single market directives, let alone the prospect of a total breakdown of Gatt (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), which the market hardly took any notice of, deserve more recognition.

Germany might be the Soviet's Union largest Western trading partner, but last year's annual trade volume of DM11.5 billion is hardly the stuff of market dominance, particularly since the majority of Soviet ventures are so far unprofitable.

The underlying reason is the market's nervousness about the domestic economy that is marred by a rising conflict between the Bundesbank and the government over budgetary policy. The last time the two were at loggerheads was in the dying days of Helmut Schmidt's administration, when the country went through its last recession.

Yesterday, the OECD signalled in its report that German economic growth will slow down from this year's expected 4.2 per cent to 3 per cent in 1991, which is more pessimistic than the government's own estimate. Germany's independent economic institutes were more pessimistic still, when they predicted growth to slow down to 2.5 per cent. At the same time inflation is likely to breach the hitherto accepted pain threashold of 3 per cent, amid the first signals by the Bundesbank that the base discount rate might go up at some stage next year. The Frankfurt market has realised that the uninterrupted eight-year boom, one of the longest in history, is coming to an end. This is Frankfurt's real *angst* and not the resignation of a Soviet minister.

OECD tries to kick-start stalled trade talks

THE breakdown of the Uruguay Round of talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade prompted deep concern among those, including John Major, who fear that a retreat from freer world trade will brake growth and fuel recession worldwide.

Against a background of slowing activity in member countries since mid-year, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development clearly shares this anxiety and has issued a timely appeal for trade liberalisation to be given top priority.

The call coincides with the prime minister's visit to Washington, during which he will try to bridge the yawning gap between the American and European Community positions on agricultural subsidies, the main cause of the collapse of the global trade talks this month.

Noting that recent events, including the Gulf oil shock and German unification, have underlined the need for economies to remain flexible, the OECD says it is all the more important to maintain the momentum of structural change, particularly in the area of trade policy in the present stalled round and beyond.

The organisation's half-yearly *Economic Outlook* calls for clear progress on the issues under negotiation in the Uruguay Round. "And further progress must not be confined to the unfinished business of the round." But the talks have yet to be revived. The best hope so far is a meeting of ambassadors called by Arthur Dunkel, the Gatt director-general, for January 15.

The OECD wants urgent consideration given to bringing bilateral arrangements, such as exist between Japan and America, into the multilateral trading framework. It proposes a systematic review of instruments, such as import quotas and voluntary export restraints, that blunt or shut out foreign competition. Competition policy has to be addressed too.

The OECD forecasts higher inflation and weaker output in the short term, as higher oil prices, dollar weakness, bigger budget deficits and financial fragility leave their mark.


Arthur Dunkel: calling Gatt ambassadors together

However, assuming no change in the real price of oil from the $27 a barrel estimate for the second half of 1990, firm counter-inflation policies, and sustained private sector confidence, the OECD expects Gulf-driven problems to be short-lived.

Economic growth for the 24-strong group of industrialised nations is foreseen rising by a real 2 per cent next year after 2.8 per cent this year. In the second half of this year growth decelerates to an annualised 1.8 per cent, a modest clip expected to hold in the first half of next year. But by the second half of 1991 growth will have picked up to an annual 2.4 per cent, with full-1992 growth set at 2.5 per cent. As to inflation, the peak in the GNP deflator is expected to come in the second half of next year, giving an annual rate of 4.9 per cent for full 1991, compared with this year's 4.3 per cent, the level the OECD economists hope to return to in 1992. Unemployment is expected to worsen from 6.2 per cent this year to 6.7 per next and 6.9 per cent in 1992.

World trade, expansion of which will be important to Britain's recovery, is projected to slow sharply this year to an annual growth rate of 5.1 per cent, against 7 per cent last year. Next year will see only slight improvement, but by 1992 growth of 6.3 per cent is expected.

Given this profile, it could be dangerous to miss the opportunities presented by the Uruguay Round. Other risks perceived by the OECD range from fragile confidence, exchange-rate developments, and budget deficits in America and Germany.

Despite the OECD's intervention for freer world trade, the view that a failed Uruguay Round would be an economic disaster is not universally held. Some American experts argue that there may not even be any serious loss of trade, since the international trading system is imbalanced. Others believe economic realities will allow actual trade to overtake the policy makers.

Time has not run out yet. President Bush could still ask Congress to extend its deadline for a global trade accord beyond its March 1 deadline. But Mr Major, keen to keep the world economic motors turning, will probably be trying to persuade the American leader to act sooner rather than later.

With Germany preoccupied with unification and its widening horizons to the East, Japan will be a mainstay of growth in the industrial world over the next two years, the OECD says. Despite the oil price rise and concerns about its financial markets, Japan is forecast to achieve 6.1 per cent growth this year, interestingly its best since the first oil shock of 1973-74.

COLIN NARBROUGH
Economics Correspondent

ECC's reshaped feat of clay

TEMPUS

ECC emerges from its renegotiated $340 million deal to buy Georgia Kaolin with a smile on its face and a somewhat enhanced investment reputation.

In May, when the deal was first proposed, investment thoughts were that ECC was buying a pig in a poke, and paying top whack. The smaller package of assets ECC now acquires still brings benefits of synergy. The purchase price comes down from $520 million (exchange rate movements see an effective fall from £269 million to £176 million), and the deal is structured on an exit p/e of 12.8 instead of between 16 and 17.

For 65 per cent of the originally planned cost, ECC buys 85 per cent of profits, 74 per cent of assets, and 76 per cent of the not insubstantial reserves of 130 million tons of kaolin (china clays). The group's position as No 1 world owner of kaolin (invaluable in paper making) is entrenched.

The original financing plans envisaged $200 million of a $600 million package of auction preference shares, complemented by non-core asset sales. So far, £53 million has been raised through non-core disposals, with more to come.

The balance sheet will become stronger, with gearing of 35 per cent, and pre-tax profits of the whole ECC group should easily challenge £95 million in 1991 and advance to £120 million in 1992. At 341p, up 9p, ECC trades on a prospective p/e of 16.8 and 12.3, respectively.

ECC retains a band of reasonably enthusiastic followers, although in current markets the prospective p/e ratios suggest buyers should be patient.

Flextech

THERE cannot be many quoted UK companies with interests in two completely unrelated industries that have bucked the downtrend in the economy. Flextech, which has reported a 42 per cent increase in interim pre-tax profits, finds itself in that fortunate position. The company is using the income generated by its oil exploration and production services arm to finance buying minority stakes in specialist, fast growing, but as yet not particularly profitable communications companies.

The formula obviously paid off in 1990, though whether the rapid organic growth seen in oil services could be maintained with Brent crude selling at below $20 a barrel must be open to doubt. However, the company seems to have picked winners with unerring accuracy when choosing partners in the satellite and cable television industries. And by only taking minority stakes it has gained entry at a low cost. Last year, the communications side contributed only 5 per cent of profits, but this should grow rapidly, reducing the company's overall dependence on the highly cyclical and fickle oil industry for generating cash.

The shares, which are priced at a prospective p/e of about ten, assuming forecast pre-tax profits of £6.8 million for the current year, look good value, given the company's organic growth prospects and healthy 20 per cent geared balance sheet. Nevertheless, the oil price risk should be fully taken into account.

Kelt Energy

THE fact that Kelt Energy was ever able to raise £208 million to finance the takeover of the ill-fated Carless says a great deal about the bravado of bankers during the late 1980s.

Only two years later Kelt faces collapse. That is what the shares, now at just 3½p, are saying and the company, from behind a wall of silence yesterday, must be coming to terms with this harsh reality.

Following the most recent agreement with its bankers, who are led by American Express, interest payments on debts of about $330 million were deferred until April, which gave the company breathing space.

But banks agreed to be flexible only because Kelt pledged to take drastic action to reduce its debt burden by selling its most treasured assets, including 7.5 per cent of Wytch Farm, formerly owned by Carless. Kleinwort Benson was appointed to sell these assets by auction but three months later no offers were received which were considered acceptable to Kelt or Amex.

It is believed that Kleinwort Benson held little hope of finding a buyer who could match Kelt's unrealistic asking price. Buyers tend to be thin on the ground when oil prices are high anyway and Kelt, as a distressed seller, was in no position to negotiate.

Amex must now decide whether the cashflow attributable to Kelt's shares of 60,000 barrels of oil per day from Wytch Farm justifies keeping the company alive, at least until the value of oil production assets recovers lost ground, or whether the time has come to bite the bullet. The odds are stacked against Kelt surviving through the spring without fairly drastic surgery.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

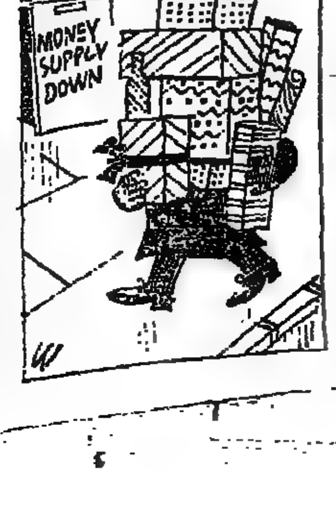
Gentle Giant's swinging time

IT SOUNDS like the answer to many a market-maker's dream. Tim Hedin, aged 28 and known as the Gentle Giant on the banking and insurance pitch at Kleinwort Benson, arrives at work at Fenchurch Street for the last time this morning before his new career as a trainee golfer in the warmth of Orlando, Florida. Tim is joining the David Leadbetter Golf School, previous alumni include one Nick Faldo, with the aim of reducing his current handicap of five and going professional. It seems a logical step from the man whose motto in the City has been "this time next year we'll all be millionaires". He still has to survive his last day at work, however, and the "various entertainments I don't think we can reveal" that my spy has promised.

GRAFFITO at a shop in St John's Wood: "Christmas Comes But Once A Year." And written underneath: "Yes, but it hangs around a long time."

Season's greetings

PERHAPS it is the influence of John Manser, the new chief executive, but Robert Fleming is showing an admirable parsimony in the face of the difficult times in the City. If you have received a Christmas card from the bank this year, you are one of a select few, and this is one of last year's. Fleming has decided to cut costs this time and dispense with the usual corporate card. Doing the same is Mitsubishi Corporation UK, which is instead making a £5,000 donation to the Kerland Foundation. Kerland teaches stimulation therapy to brain-damaged children and will now be able to arrange a visit to Japan to appoint its first Japanese staff member for training in Britain. The value of corporate Christmas cards seems to reduce in inverse proportion to the number sent, anyway. At least one correspondent to these offices has taken to marking more important envelopes with a large sticker reading "Not A Christmas Card". Meanwhile, a week is a long time in politics, but the three weeks since Mrs Thatcher's departure was obviously not long enough for Sovereign Leasing, whose Christmas card features her in unfamiliar guise as Santa Claus collecting on behalf of the Treasury outside the group's offices. Equally wrong-footed is PowerGen, whose 1991 diary fails to register the shock departure of its chairman, Robert Malpas, in the middle of November.



Counting turtles

IT IS not only policemen and prime ministers that seem to be getting younger these days. A survey asking accountants what they wanted for Christmas threw up two who requested, I can only hope facetiously, the dreaded turtles. The survey was of trainee or part-qualified accountants, and I think the two who requested their final exam papers will go far. Depressingly, things material were still at the top of the list. Houses, holidays, bikes, planes, cars, the actress Kim Basinger, even CD players featured strongly, and one even wanted 5,000 electricity shares. Do these people know the Eighties are over? Only eight asked for peace on earth, and one wanted a baby penguin.

Just testing

CITY folk stuck at a loose end on Boxing Day, or any other time to judge by current market volumes, can amuse themselves with a couple of seasonal quizzes. Trickiest by a mile is the one from Andrea Kirkby, transport analyst at Goldman Sachs, which features her four obsessions, Venice, trains, the turf and mountain-climbing. Entrants might be warned, however, that your correspondent is already in a commanding lead for the prize, a bottle of Glenfiddich, having gained a few extra points from spotting the not-so-deliberate mistake in one of the questions. Over at Yamaichi, John Willis, electricity analyst, features 25 things you never particularly wanted to know about electricity, including the actor/actress in the privatisation commercials who was stricken with appendicitis during filming and the amount of time the first execution by electric chair took. Prize is promised to be "a real monster". Both can be obtained from the relevant offices, but it might be best to avoid Yamaichi this morning, the date of the annual Christmas party for children of the staff.

Cut-price bed

SWRAJ Paul, cost conscious chairman of Caparo, the engineering group, spent November, when group budgets for next year were prepared, telling his managers to press for lower prices from suppliers and to think about cutting their own selling prices if they could be sustained without loss of profit. "Times are hard and people realise it," he says. He also believes in practising what he preaches. On a trip to Toronto he found he had been booked into a $350 a night suite and switched immediately to a single room costing $165. After further negotiations, he persuaded the reservations desk to cut the price to $125.

MARTIN WALLER

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily ch'ge (£)	Yearly ch'ge (£)	Daily ch'ge (lc)*	Yearly ch'ge (lc)*	Daily ch'ge (US$)	Yearly ch'ge (US$)
The World	582.6	–0.9	–30.9	–0.8	–22.1	–1.6	–17.9
(free)	111.4	–0.9	–30.9	–0.9	–22.1	–1.6	–17.9
EAFE	1008.3	–1.2	–35.3	–1.4	–29.8	–1.9	–23.0
(free)	103.7	–1.2	–35.4	–1.5	–29.9	–1.9	–23.1
Europe	801.8	–1.9	–20.9	–1.8	–18.8	–2.6	–6.0
(free)	130.2	–1.9	–20.3	–2.0	–18.3	–2.6	–5.3
Nth America	422.2	0.2	–21.5	–0.5	–6.7	–0.5	–6.7
Nordic	1092.3	–1.9	–29.8	–1.8	–25.1	–2.6	–16.6
(free)	179.2	–2.3	–23.8	–2.2	–19.1	–3.0	–9.4
Pacific	2247.2	–0.6	–43.3	–1.1	–36.6	–1.3	–32.6
Far East	3261.4	–0.6	–43.6	–1.1	–37.2	–1.3	–33.0
Australia	230.6	0.3	–33.6	–0.7	–19.3	–0.4	–21.1
Austria	1342.1	–2.6	–9.7	–2.3	–5.1	–3.3	7.4
Belgium	708.2	–0.9	–26.1	–0.6	–25.7	–1.6	–14.5
Canada	427.0	0.4	–28.9	–0.2	–15.3	–0.3	–15.4
Denmark	1084.7	–1.7	–17.6	–1.5	–14.0	–2.4	–2.0
Finland	65.5	0.4	–43.2	0.4	–39.5	–0.3	–32.4
(free)	90.5	0.8	–39.3	0.9	–35.4	0.1	–27.8
France	585.1	–2.2	–27.5	–2.1	–24.1	–2.9	–13.8
Germany	700.4	–3.5	–23.7	–3.2	–19.8	–4.2	–9.2
Hong Kong	1966.9	0.3	–11.3	–0.4	5.4	–0.4	[illegible]
Italy	257.6	–3.8	–33.2	–3.5	–29.3	–4.5	–20.6
Japan	3425.7	–0.7	–44.5	–1.1	–38.3	–1.4	–34.0
Netherlands	736.5	–1.2	–22.1	–0.9	–18.2	–2.0	–7.4
New Zealand	52.3	0.8	–49.2	0.2	–39.2	0.1	–39.6
Norway	1107.5	–2.8	–17.5	–2.5	–12.7	–3.5	–1.9
(free)	193.8	–3.2	–17.0	–2.9	–12.2	–3.9	–1.3
Sing/Malay	1460.8	1.0	–26.8	0.6	–20.5	0.2	–12.9
Spain	168.0	–2.7	–29.0	–2.5	–26.3	–3.4	–15.6
Sweden	1142.9	–2.3	–34.8	–2.3	–29.6	–3.0	–22.5
(free)	165.5	–2.8	–31.6	–2.7	–26.1	–3.5	–18.7
Switzerland	707.7	–1.7	–22.6	–1.4	–23.5	–2.4	–8.0
(free)	107.7	–1.6	–22.8	–1.3	–23.7	–2.3	–6.3
UK	642.9	–1.0	–10.8	–1.0	–10.8	–1.7	6.0
USA	382.3	0.2	–20.9	–0.5	–5.9	–0.5	–5.9

(lc)* Local currency. *Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.*

ALPHA STOCKS

	Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000
ADT	204	CU	1,730	Lonrho	1,529	Slough	1,253
Abbey Nat	1,335	Cookson	615	Lucas	2,488	Smith & N	2,139
Alld-Lyons	3,655	Courtaulds	1,236	Manpower	500	SK Beech	1,034
Amstrad	697	Dalgety	743	M&S	4,828	Do Uts	154
Anglian	303	Dixons	1,400	Maxwell Cm	372	Smith WH	960
Argos	538	ECC	2,526	MB Group	[illegible]	Smiths Ind	399
ASDA	5,743	Enterprise	305	MEPC	890	STC	[illegible]
Ass Foods	962	Ferranti	340	Midland	6,465	Stan Chart	2,830
Argyll	3,159	Fisons	1,583	Nat West	7,898	Storehse	181
BAA	643	FKI	[illegible]	Next	10,962	Sun Allnce	1,375
BET	9,600	Gen Acc	1,238	Nthn Food	483	Sun Life	2
BTR	2,100	GEC	3,408	P&O	585	T & N	[illegible]
BAT	6,135	Glaxo	3,745	Pearson	[illegible]	TI Group	279
Barclays	3,370	Glynwed	93	Pilkington	1,505	Tarmac	2,549
Bass	377	Granada	2,886	Prudential	3,568	Tate & Lyle	554
Beazer	318	Grand Met	4,479	Racal	4,213	Taylor Wood	217
Berisfd Intl	1,125	GUS 'A'	237	Racal Tele	581	TSB	2,103
BICC	498	GRE	5,505	Rk Hovis	824	Tesco	4,830
Blue Circle	1,548	GKN	1,359	Rank	3,957	Thames Wtr	789
BOC	854	Guinness	1,507	R&C	282	Thorn EMI	391
Boots	3,570	Hamm 'A'	1,989	Redland	312	Trafalgar	10,533
BPB	1,298	Hanson	11,633	Reed	2,224	THF	2,379
Br Aero	1,558	Do Wts	412	Reuters	2,898	Ultramar	2,016
Br Airways	1,843	H & C	2,814	RMC Gp	915	Unigate	1,711
Br Gas	3,598	Hawker	682	RTZ	1,884	Unilever	1,921
Br Land	549	Hillsdown	1,028	R-Royce	3,583	United Bis	1,412
Br Petrol	8,835	IMI	729	Rothmn 'B'	552	United News	404
Br Steel	7,373	ICI	2,263	Royal Bank	338	Wellcome	2,088
Br Telecm	5,789	Inchcape	1,628	Royal Ins	1,113	Welsh	57
Bunzl	491	Kingfisher	1,784	Saatchi	235	Wessex	[illegible]
Burmah Cast	452	Lasmo	1,927	Sainsbury	2,237	Whitbrd	845
Burton	974	Ladbroke	11,942	Scot & N	527	Wgn Teape	1,939
C&W	1,909	Land Sec	850	Sears	3,023	Williams	10,978
Cadbury	1,270	Laporte	573	Sedgwick	311	Willis Cor	840
[illegible]	36	L&G	651	Severn Trnt	599	Wimpey G	1,238
Carlton	3,999	Lloyds	1,585	Shell	4,068		
Coats	2,268	Lloyds Abb	872	Siebe	400		

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings December 17
Last Dealings January 4
Last Declaration March 27
For Settlement April 8

Call options were taken out on: 20/12/90 Amstrad, Aran Energy, Kunick Leisure, Next, Premier Cons, Tusker Resources.
Put: Ford Sellar Morris.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Alld Lyons (*476)	420	63	80	87	2½	6	10
	460	28	50	57	8	16	21
	500	9	27	36	32	36	43
ASDA (*118)	120	5	–	–	7	–	–
	130	2	8	–	15	15	–
	140	1	4	7	25	26	27
Bass (*1084)	950	138	160	188	3	10	18
	1000	87	128	150	8	20	30
	1050	44	94	120	21	37	47
Boots (*327)	300	31	44	51	5½	8	11
	330	12	25	32	13	19	23
	360	2½	12	19	37	38	40
Brit Air (*144)	130	16	23	24	1½	5	9
	140	10	18	18	6	11	14
	160	2½	8	10	21	22	25
BP (*332)	300	39	47	53	2	6	7½
	330	14½	28	34	8	14	17
	360	4	12½	21	29	29	33
Brit Steel (*118)	110	10½	15½	18	1½	3½	6½
	120	4	8	11	6	7½	10
	130	1½	5	7	13½	14	17
C & W (*452)	420	42	61	72	5½	13	18
	460	15	37	48	19	28	35
	500	5	19	30	54	56	60
Cons Union (*460)	420	56	77	82	1½	7½	12
	460	32	45	57	7	21	25
	500	10	24	37	30	43	46
Courtauld (*305)	300	43	57	62	2	5½	9
	330	19	34	40	8	13	18
	360	6	18	24	27	28	33
GKN (*327)	280	59	58	60	1	8	11
	300	35	42	47	4	13	18
	330	15	23	30	13	28	30
Grand Met (*682)	550	115	123	141	2	8	8
	600	68	84	100	5½	14	18
	650	25	47	66	23	33	37
ICI (*888)	850	60	82	92	15	43	47
	900	28	50	65	37	69	72
	950	10	28	47	75	102	109
Kingfisher (*357)	350	19	35	44	9	17	25
	380	7	22	29	29	34	40
	420	2½	12	18	57	58	69
Ladbroke (*249)	260	7	17	24	19	22	28
	280	3	10	15	35	38	40
	300	2	5½	–	56	57	–
Land Sec (*532)	460	78	95	103	2	3	7½
	500	42	62	73	4½	12	19
	550	13	32	40	24	32	40
M & S (*228)	220	13	23	27	5	9	12
	240	8	13	17	17	20	23
	260	1	5½	11	38	38	37
STC (*322)	280	42	42	42	½	½	½
	300	22	22	22	½	1	1
	330	1	1	1	14	14	14
Sainsbury (*306)	280	32	43	48	2	6	8
	300	15	29	35	6	12	14
	330	3½	13	19	28	28	29
Shell (*457)	420	45	52	67	3	11	14
	460	14	28	43	14	27	31
	500	3½	13	24	45	53	58
Smid Beech (*627)	550	80	98	115	2	10	15
	600	35	62	80	11	23	30
	650	10	35	53	37	47	55
Storehse (*114)	110	8	15	17	5	7½	10
	120	3	8	13	12	14	15
	130	2	6	8	19	20	21
Trafalgar (*199)	160	41	47	50	2½	5½	10
	180	24	34	34	4½	10	18
	200	10	23	24	14	20	28
Ultramar (*314)	300	25	37	45	6	12	13
	330	8	20	28	19	28	30
	360	3	10	18	48	48	50
Unilever (*687)	600	95	110	120	3	9	12
	650	50	69	82	8	20	27
	700	17	40	53	30	42	47
	750	4	20	–	67	74	–
Utd Bisc (*319)	300	28	35	40	3	9	13
	330	7	17	24	15	24	27
	360	2½	7	–	42	45	–
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BAA (*412)	360	66	82	85	3	6	12
	390	38	58	64	8	13	21
	420	20	39	47	20	28	33
BAT Ind (*595)	500	110	118	125	3	7	10
	550	64	78	90	8	19	24
	600	28	47	62	23	37	42
	650	11	–	–	57	–	–
BTR (*328)	280	55	58	67	1½	7	8
	300	38	43	51	5	11	14
	330	16	28	33	15	23	27
Brit Aero (*529)	500	48	55	75	13	27	31
	550	20	31	50	37	52	55
	600	7	16	–	78	87	–
Brit Tele (*281)	260	30	41	47	3½	6½	9½
	280	16	28	33	10	13½	16
	300	6½	17½	22	21	24	28
Cadbury (*324)	300	34	39	48	5	12	15
	330	14	22	32	17	28	29
	360	5	12	20	40	48	49
Guinness (*776)	700	92	108	129	6	14	19
	750	53	75	98	17	30	38
	800	28	48	70	40	53	58
GEC (*177)	160	19	26	28	3	4½	8
	180	6	14	17	10½	13½	18
	200	2	6	9	28	29	31
Hanson (*196)	180	17	22	25	4	7	9½
	200	5	11½	15	16	17	18½
	220	1½	5½	–	34	35	–
LASMO (*378)	390	20	30	42	23	30	[illegible]
	420	10	21	31	[illegible]	47	50
	460	4	10	18	87	87	89
P & O (*328)	460	82	90	97	4	14	18
	500	52	62	74	14	27	34
	550	21	35	47	37	[illegible]	57
Pilkngtn (*180)	140	44	50	[illegible]	2	3½	5
	160	27	35	[illegible]	3½	6½	10
	180	13	22	23	11	[illegible]	[illegible]
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Prudential (*198)	180	22	26	30	3	7½	8½
	200	9	14	19	10	17	18
	220	3	6	11	25	30	31
Racal (*181)	160	27	36	39	4	7½	11
	180	14	23	28	10½	16	18
	200	5½	13	16	24	27	28
RTZ (*453)	390	72	79	89	5	11	14
	420	47	55	67	10	21	28
	460	20	29	44	27	42	41
Scot & New (*365)	330	40	55	60	5½	10	14
	360	21	38	45	15	22	28
	390	8	24	28	35	38	43
Tesco (*222)	200	34	44	48	2	3½	4½
	220	21	28	34	4	7	8½
	240	8½	16	23	13	16	18
Thames Wtr (*280)	200	34	–	–	2	–	–
	240	28	31	35	6½	9	13
	260	10	16	23	14	16	22
[illegible] (*12563)	2300	320	–	–	15	–	–
	2350	280	–	–	35	–	–
	2400	240	–	–	55	–	–
	Series	Jan	–	–	Jan	–	–
Ferranti (*14)	20	1	–	–	7	–	–
	25	½	–	–	12	–	–
	28	½	–	–	16	–	–
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Lucas (*141)	130	17	23	30	5	9	10
	140	11	18	23	9	14	16
	160	4	–	–	23	–	–
	Series	Dec	Feb	Apr	Dec	Feb	Apr
Pearson (*379)	320	66	61	–	3	6½	–
	350	32	39	50	8	14	18
	390	14½	22	32	22	27	28
	Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Abbey Nat (*229)	200	35	38	–	3	4	–
	220	20	23	27	9	10	12
	240	9	13	18	20	22	24
Amstrad (*65)	50	17½	20	20½	2	2½	2½
	60	8½	12½	15	3½	6	7
	70	3½	7	10½	9½	11½	12
Barclays (*355)	330	42	47	53	15	19	22
	360	23	30	33	28	33	35
	390	10	20	22	50	53	55
Blue Circ (*217)	200	29	31	38	6	11	13
	220	17	20	27	14	22	24
	240	9	13	19	27	33	34
Brit Gas (*230)	200	34	41	48	3	4½	5½
	220	18	27	30	8½	8	11
	240	8½	16	18	16	18	21
Dixons (*140)	130	17	23	26	7	10	13
	140	10	17	20	12	15	18
	160	5	9	13	28	27	29
Glaxo (*844)	800	68	99	123	23	30	57
	850	42	70	92	45	50	60
	900	23	50	65	79	80	85
Hawker (*440)	390	72	79	87	10	18	20
	420	49	59	69	17	27	34
	460	29	39	48	34	45	52
Hillsdown (*252)	240	28	33	39	7½	13	15
	260	17	22	28	18	22	25
	280	9	14	20	30	33	37
Lonrho (*219)	220	9	17	18	20	25	28
	240	4	10	11	40	41	42
Midland (*195)	180	25	30	33	11	14	17
	200	14	19	20	23	27	30
	220	7	12	15	35	40	43
Reuter (*681)	600	93	118	–	35	50	–
	650	65	93	110	55	72	77
	700	45	73	92	83	97	107
R-Royce (*160)	140	28	29	33	3½	6	7
	160	13½	17	21	10	13	16
	180	6½	9	13	23	25½	27
Sears (*83)	80	9½	12	14	4½	8	9
	90	4½	7½	8	10	13	15
	100	2	–	–	19	–	–
THF (*247)	240	24	27	33	8½	14	16
	260	12	17	22	18	24	28
	280	6	10	–	35	37	–
Thorn EMI (*687)	600	94	115	116	10	15	16
	650	57	78	78	20	30	37
	700	30	48	49	42	51	60
TSB (*137)	120	21	23	–	2	2½	–
	130	12	16	21	4	7	9
	140	6	10	14	10	14	16
Vaal Reefs (*$58)	50	15	17	19	6	7	9
	60	9	12	14	10	11½	14
Wellcome (*443)	390	68	85	–	11	14	–
	420	45	64	80	18	23	23
	460	25	42	57	40	45	47
	Series	Jan	Mar	May	Jan	Mar	May
Eastern Elc (*143)	130	18	20	24	2	4	5
	140	8	13	18	4½	6½	8½
	160	2	6	8½	20	21	22
Southrn Elc (*148)	130	19	24	28	1½	3½	4½
	140	11	17	21	4	6	8
	160	3	7	11	16	17	18
Elc Package (*£1533)	1450	115	150	210	30	60	80
	1500	70	130	180	50	80	80
	1550	45	95	145	70	90	95

FT-SE INDEX (*2159)

	2000	2050	2100	2150	2200	2250
Calls						
Dec	170	121	75	32	8	2
Jan	193	152	110	77	52	30
Feb	217	178	145	103	78	58
Mar	232	[illegible]	160	133	105	80
Jun	277	–	210	–	152	–
Puts						
Dec	4	5	8	18	50	103
Jan	20	26	42	54	80	117
Feb	35	47	60	78	103	133
Mar	45	58	73	87	117	147
Jun	73	–	102	–	145	–

December 20, 1990 Total: 27392 Calls 7440 Puts 19952 FT-SE: Calls 3131 Puts [illegible]
*Underlying security price.

Wakeham boost for renewable energy

By Ross Tieman
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Wakeham, the energy secretary, has invited proposals for renewable energy projects capable of generating 150-200 megawatts of power which will be eligible for special financial support.

He has answered criticism of the first-round allocations, when almost half of approved capacity was in waste incineration plants, by setting targets for key technologies.

Under second-round licensing plans, wind power, which accounted for just 7 per cent of capacity in the first round, would provide 25 to 50mw, or 12.5 to 25 per cent of capacity.

Mr Wakeham wants hydro plant to account for 5 to 10mw, landfill gas to provide 30 to 60mw, and waste incineration to provide 50 to 100mw. Other methods could account for 15 to 30mw.

Mr Wakeham said he wanted to encourage development of a range of economic renewable technologies. Responding to complaints that the first projects were chosen too rapidly, he said the necessary order will not be laid before Parliament until next autumn.

Small firms likely to shed staff

MANY small businesses are likely to shed staff to fight recession and high interest rates, according to a Small Business Research Trust-NatWest quarterly survey.

The survey found there were more small companies expecting to cut staff than looking to maintain or to increase their workforce. The survey for the three months to September suggested "a net shedding of labour" in small businesses.

Annual growth in sales, turnover and employment were at their lowest since the survey began more than seven years ago. The companies were also less optimistic about the fourth quarter.

High interest rates were the most pressing problem, with a quarter of the 1,200-plus respondents citing them as their biggest concern. Low turnover and lack of business were also principal concerns.

STOCK MARKET

Bearish signs dash hopes of a pre-Christmas rally

A STEADY trickle of bearish news took its toll on share prices and bonds, effectively scuppering all lingering hopes of a pre-Christmas rally.

The resignation of the Soviet foreign minister, a disappointing set of money supply figures and further weakness in the pound left investors nursing hefty losses. But dealers complained that the biggest problem was the apathy of fund managers who appeared more interested in the festive season.

Prices drifted throughout the session but closed above their worst levels, helped by news of a cut in the American prime rate. The FT-SE 100 index ended 19.9 points lower at 2,158.8, having been almost 30 points down at one stage. The FT index of 30 shares shed 19.9 to 1,687.2 on a turnover of 590 million shares.

However, County NatWest WoodMac, the broker, is optimistic about prospects for next year and is forecasting that the FT-SE 100 will reach 2,650, with the market achieving returns of almost 30 per cent.

Government securities recorded falls extending to about £½ at the longer end.

Barclays de Zoete Wedd, which is well placed to understand the impact the recession is having on the securities industry, has downgraded the profit estimates of its two biggest rivals SG Warburg, 3p better at 335p, and Kleinwort Benson, unchanged at 285p.

Philip Gibbs, an analyst at BZW, is forecasting a loss of £6 million for Kleinwort Benson, against a profit of £83.3 million, for the year just ending after writing off losses connected with the stake in Premier Consolidated Oilfields. For 1991, he has cut his pre-tax profit forecast by £4 million to £36 million because of the low levels of turnover in the City.

Mr Gibbs has also reduced his estimate for Warburg this year by £7 million to £103 million, against last time's £187.5 million. BZW is a seller of Kleinwort on fundamentals but remains bullish on Warburg long term.

News that Union Texas had withdrawn its North Sea assets from the market after failing to find buyers added to existing woes in the oil sector. Chevron is said to be disappointed with offers received for interests in the Don Dunlin and Murchison fields in the North Sea, while Amoco is believed to have accepted a lower than expected offer for its 8.63 per cent stake in Hutton.

Analysts are trimming estimated net asset values for oil companies with significant exposure to the North Sea. These include **Enterprise**, down 4p to 606p; **Lasmo**, down 10p to 378p; **Premier Consolidated Oilfield**, down 3p to 61p; and **Ranger Oil**, down 4p to 339p. **Shell** fell 5p to 557p.

American investors are continuing to reduce their holdings in the soon to be demerged **Racal Electronics**, down 4p to 181p. The Bank of New York Nominees says the number of American Depository Receipt shares it holds on behalf of clients has fallen by ten million to 150.6 million, 11.58 per cent of the total.

Glaxo shrugged off an early fall of 16p to end all square at 844p. Astra, of Sweden, has been given official approval to launch the drug Losec, for the short-term treatment of ulcers, in Japan.

Losec is a rival to Zantac, Glaxo's anti-ulcer treatment. Astra attacked Glaxo this week, claiming that sales of Zantac were slowing down.

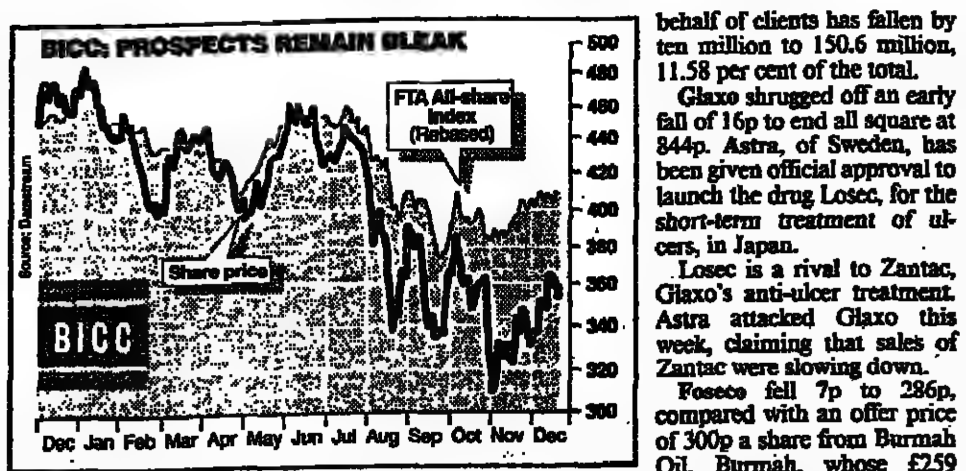
Foseco fell 7p to 286p, compared with an offer price of 300p a share from Burmah Oil. Burmah, whose £259 million bid closes today, has dismissed Foseco's proposals to dispose of certain assets as "irrelevant".

Great Portland Estates, the property investment company, held steady at 226p after the group announced plans to pay Sears, the Selfridges and Freemans retailer, £68.7 million for a portfolio of properties with annual rental income of £5.7 million.

To finance the deal, Great Portland is issuing 19 million new shares. Sears will retain 9 million shares, equivalent to a 5 per cent stake in the company. Sears eased ½p to 85½p.

BICC fell 4p to 354p in the wake of a sell recommendation from BZW, which remains gloomy about prospects. It expects pre-tax profits in the current year to drop from £201 million to £180 million and has cut its estimate for 1991 from £200 million to £160 million.

MICHAEL CLARK



ICI fell 24p to 886p despite news that the group is to sell its interests in three joint ventures to Nalco for $168 million. ICI said trading in November was disappointing and analysts' estimates for the current year are too high. Warburg Securities is said to have cut its forecast to £960 million, while Barclays de *Zoete Wedd is looking for £970 million (£1.5 billion).*

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
ECC Group	340p (+8p)
Thomson Corp	735p (+20p)
Sothebys	562½p (+25p)
Appletree	89½p (+15p)
Schroders	712½p (+20p)

FALLS:	
Reuters	659p (-11p)
BOC	495½p (-8p)
Slough Estates	235½p (-12p)
Rosehaugh	77p (-10p)
LASMO	378p (-10p)
Cairn Energy	270p (-25p)
Pearson	650p (-19p)
Commercial Union	480p (-10p)
Euro Disney	972½p (-10p)
ERF	137½p (-10p)
Nat Aust Bank	203p (-16p)
Turriff	153½p (-15p)
ICI	885½p (-24p)
Manganese Bronze	99½p (-23p)
RMC Group	549p (-8½p)

Closing prices

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES	
Atlantis Resources	37
Aberforth Smlr Cos	98
Brabant Res	155 -1
CMW Group	31
Cardo Cairn (50p)	32
ECU Tst	42 -1
EFM Java Tst	34
Eidos	95 -3
Excalibur Gp	46
Faber Prest	145
Gordon Vale	53
Invergordon	139 -2
Leading Ls New	2
Lavercrest	96
MMI	19
Malaysia Capital	26⅝
Midland Radio	104
Paramount	9½
Pittencrieff	88
Pelican Gp	93

Proteus Intl	95 -1
Seton Healthcare	141
St James Place	68 -1
Smaller IT	68 -2
Stand Platform	180
Tr Euro Gwth	88
Utd Energy	1¼
Utd Uniform	101 +1
Unichem	117
Wig Tpe App	182 -1

● *See main prices page for Electricity shares*

RIGHTS ISSUES	
Control Tech N/P	18
Harvey & Thorn N/P	3 -1
Surrey N/P	¼
Tusker Res N/P	1½ -¼

(Issue price in brackets).

MAJOR INDICES

New York:	
Dow Jones	2630.45 (+3.72)*
S&P Composite	330.10 (-0.10)*
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	24524.94 (-351.84)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	3078.21 (-5.23)
FT-SE Eurotrack	944.08 (-22.24)
Amsterdam:	
CBS Tendency	94.4 (-1.3)
Sydney: AO	1276.6 (-7.5)
Frankfurt: DAX	1409.26 (-47.98)
Brussels:	
General	4973.87 (-26.03)
Paris: CAC	421.15 (-8.27)
Zurich: SKA Gen	457.1 (-7.1)
London:	
FT.—A All-Share	1037.27 (-8.86)
FT.— "500"	1143.22 (-9.79)
FT. Gold Mines	146.2 (+8.0)
FT. Fixed interest	90.97 (-0.17)
FT. Govt Secs	82.64 (-0.19)
Bargains	27380
SEAQ Volume	590.2m
USM (Datastream)	108.64 (+0.46)

*Denotes latest trading price

FRANKFURT

Dax slides 3.3% on Soviet resignation

Frankfurt

SHARE prices tumbled 3.3 per cent to their lowest level in five weeks after Eduard Shevardnadze resigned as foreign minister to the Soviet Union and gave warning that his country was moving towards dictatorship.

The Dax index fell 47.98 points to close at 1,409.26, its lowest close since the 1,406.23 recorded on November 14. The index has dropped 7.4 per cent in the past four sessions.

Harald Breitenbach, interbank trader at Dresdner Bank, confirmed that Mr Shevardnadze's decision had caused the decline. "The reaction was slow at first. The talk about the dictatorship is really what shook people up," he said.

However, traders said volume was low, reflecting the fact that most participants have closed their books for the year and were unwilling to stake out new positions.

Herr Breitenbach said: "At the end of the year, you just try to stay away. If news like this breaks it can be devastating. Germans have a certain way of overreacting."

The Dax fell to about 1,410 soon after the opening, but recovered on reports that Mr Shevardnadze's move would be postponed. Near the end of the session, however, it was said Mr Shevardnadze would remain in office only until the Soviet parliament confirmed his departure.

☐ **Tokyo** — Shares closed down and near their lows in sluggish and featureless trading after two days of rises prompted investors to take profits. The Nikkei index fell 351.84 points, or 1.41 per cent, to 24,524.94.

☐ **Hong Kong** — Share prices slipped in thin trading, reflecting the usual year-end slump in the market. The Hang Seng index fell 5.23 points to 3,078.21.

☐ **Singapore** — Share prices closed mixed in shortened trading hours after a suspension at the opening due to a computer fault. Trading was resumed at 4 pm and extended to 6pm. The Straits Times industrial index rose 4 points to 1,177.64.

☐ **Sydney** — The All-Ordinaries index closed 7.5 points weaker at 1,276.6.

(Agencies)

WALL STREET

Dow recovers ground

New York

BLUE chips recouped some ground after falling more than 1 per cent in early trading. Investors were unnerved by the resignation of Eduard Shevardnadze.

Ron Doran, director of institutional trading at CL King and Associates, said: "Does this mean the demise of Gorbachev?."

The Dow Jones industrial average was 14.85 points lower at 2,611.88 in mid-morning, as declining issues held a nine-to-two lead over gaining shares. *(Reuter)*

	Dec 20 midday	Dec 19 close
Abbott Lab	44¼	44½
Aetna Life	38½	38½
Ahmanson	13½	13½
Air Prods	54½	54½
Albertsons	35½	35
Alcan Al	19¼	19½
Alco Stand	33	33¼
Allied Signal	27½	27½
Alumin CA	58½	58½
Am Brands	40½	40½
Am Cyanmd	51¼	51¼
Am EPC	26	26½
Am General	30½	30½
Am Home	52½	52½
Am Intl	79½	78½
Am Medical	4½	5
Am Stores	52½	52½
Amax	21¼	22
Amer Hess	47½	46½
Ameritech	65½	65½
Amex	21¼	22¼
Amoco	51¼	50½
AMP	44¼	43½
AMR	50½	50½
Anheuser-B	42½	42½
Apple Comp	44	41¼
Archer-Dan	22½	22½
Arkla	20½	20¼
Armstrong	26¼	26½
Asarco	26½	27
Ashland Oil	27½	28
AT&T	30½	31¼
Atlan Richfld	123½	122½
Auto Dt	54	54
Avery Intl	20½	21
Avon Prod	26½	26½
Baltimore	27½	28½
Banc One	27½	27½
Bankamerica	27½	26½
Bard	17½	17½
Barnett Bk	21¼	20½
Bausch Lmb	66	66½
Baxter Intl	26¼	26½
Bec Dickn	74½	74½
Bell Atlan	55½	56
Bellsouth	54½	55
Bkr Hughes	25½	25½
Black Decker	10½	10½
Block	44½	43½
Bnkrs Tst NY	45½	44½
Boeing	46	45½
Boise Casc	26½	26½
Borden	30	29½
[illegible]	66	66
Browng-Fer	22½	22½
Burl Nth	29	29
[illegible]	7½	7½
Campbell Sp	58½	58½
Cap Cities	465	468½
Capital Hld	38½	39
Carolina	45½	46
Caterpillar	49½	48½
CBS	175	175½
Central SW	44½	45
Champion	25½	25½
Chase Man	11½	11¼
Chem Bnkg	12½	11½
Chevron	71½	71
Chrysler	13½	14
Chubb	63½	63½
Cigna	40½	41¼
Citicorp	14	13½
Clrne Lb	30½	30¼
Clorox	37	37
Cmwlth Eds	35½	35½
CNA Fincl	63½	64¼
Coastal	32½	31½
Coca-Cola	49½	47½
Colgate-Pal	75½	74¼
Columb Gas	46½	47½
Compaq	57½	58½
Conagra	37½	37½
Cons Edis	29½	29½
Cons NG	43	43½
Cons Rail	40½	40½
Cooper Ind	40½	40½
Corning	45½	45
CPC Intl	81½	81½
Crown Cork	57½	57¼
CSX	31½	31½
Dana	29	29½
Dayton-Hud	56½	57½
Deere	46½	46½
Delta Air	57½	58½
Deluxe	33½	33½
Detroit Ed	29	29½
Digital Eq	56½	56½
Dillard	87½	89½
Disney	100½	100½
Dominion	46½	47½
Donnelley	39½	39
Dover	37½	38½
Dow Chem	47½	46½
Dow Jones	22½	22½
Dresser Ind	20½	20½
Du Pont	37½	37½
Duke Pwr	31½	31½
Dun Bradst	41	41¼
East Kodak	41½	41½
Eaton	48	49
Emerson El	37½	37½

	Dec 20 midday	Dec 19 close
Enron	54	54½
Enserch	22½	22½
Ethyl	22½	23
Exxon	50½	50½
Fed NMA	35½	36
Fedrl Expre	33½	34
Flt Norstar	11½	11½
Fluor	38½	37½
FMC	31½	31½
Ford Motor	25¼	25½
FPL	29	29
Fst Chicago	18½	18½
Fst Intrsta	28½	25½
Fst Union	16½	16¼
Gannett	36½	36½
Gen Cinema	19½	18½
Gen Elec	57½	56½
Gen Mills	48½	48½
Gen Motors	35	35½
Gen RE	90½	89½
Gen Signal	37½	38½
Genentech	n/a	n/a
Genuine Pa	37½	37½
Georgia-Pac	38½	38½
Gillette	60½	60½
Goodrich	39½	39½
Goodyear	17½	17½
Grace	25	25
Greyhound	26½	26½
Gt Atlantic	43½	43½
Gt Western	11½	11½
GTE	29½	29½
Hallbrtn	45¼	45½
Heinz	34½	34½
Hercules	34	33½
Hershey Fd	38½	38½
Hewlett Pkd	32½	32½
Hilton Htl	37½	36½
Home Depot	38½	39½
Homestake	17½	17½
Honeywell	89½	90½
Houston Ind	36½	36½
Hsehld Intl	32½	32
Humana	42½	42½
IBM	114½	113
IF&F	73½	73½
Illinois TW	47½	47½
Inco	25½	25½
Ingsol-Rand	36	36
Inland Steel	23½	23½
Intel	39	37½
Intl Paper	53½	53½
ITT	49½	48½
James River	25½	25½
Johnsn Jhsn	71½	71½
K Mart	26½	26½
Kellogg	77½	77½
Kerr-McGee	44½	44½
Kimbly-Clrk	82½	82½
Knght-Rddr	45½	44½
Lilly	74½	75½
Limited	17½	17½
Lin Brdcstg	61½	60½
Lincln Nat	39½	40½
Litton Ind	76½	76½
Lockheed	33½	33½
Louis-Pac	27½	27
Manu Hano	24½	22½
Marriott	12½	12½
Marsh Mclen	75½	75
Martin Mar	46	47
Masco	17½	17½
May Dept	49½	44
Maytag	10½	10½
MCA	67½	67½
McDnl Doug	42½	42½
McDonalds	29½	29½
McGraw-Hill	52½	52½
MCI Com	19½	19½
Mead	26½	27
Medtronic	86½	86
Melville	41½	41½
Merck	86½	86½
Merril Lynch	21½	22½
MMM	86½	86½
Mobil	57	57½
Monsanto	46½	46½
Moore	22½	22½
Morgan	46½	45½
Motorola	51½	50½
Nat Medical	39	38½
Nat Semi	5½	4½
Nat Service	35	35½
Navistar	3½	3½
NCNB	25½	24½
NCR	87½	87½
NBD Bncp	39	32½
Newmont Min	39½	39½
Niagr Mhwk	13½	13½
Nike	59½	59½
NL Indstrs	10½	10½
Nordstorm	23½	23½
Norfk Sthn	40½	40½
Norwest	20½	20½
Nthn St Pwr	35½	35½
Nthn Telcm	27½	27½
NY Times	20½	20½
Nynex	72½	73
Occid Petl	20½	20½
Ohio Ed	16½	17½
Oracle Sys	7½	7½

	Dec 20 midday	Dec 19 close
Oryx Enrgy	35½	35½
Pac Ent	38½	39½
Pac Gas Elec	25	24½
Pac Telesis	46½	46½
Paccar	33	33¼
Pacificorp	21½	22
Pall	34½	34½
Paramount	42	41½
Parker-Hanfn	24	23½
Penney	43½	43½
Pennzoil	64½	65
Pepsico	26½	26½
Pfizer	81½	80½
Phlps Pet	25	25½
Philips Elec	17½	17½
Philip Morris	51½	51½
Phlps Dodge	56½	55½
Pitney Bow	32½	33
Plcr Dome	15½	15½
PNC Fncl	23½	22½
Pnhdle Estn	11½	11½
Polaroid	22½	22½
PPG Inds	44½	44
Prctr Gmble	86½	86½
Price	38½	38½
Primerica	23½	23½
Pub Service	26½	27
Quaker Oats	51½	51½
Ralston Pur	89½	89½
Raychem	23	22½
Raytheon	69½	68
Reebok	12½	12½
Roadway	55½	[illegible]
Rockwell	27½	27½
Rohm Haas	35	35½
Royal Dutch	76½	77½
Rubbermaid	42	41½
Rynlds Mtl	55½	54½
Safeco	32½	32½
Salomon	25½	25½
Sant Fe Pac	6½	6½
Sara Lee	31½	32½
Scecorp	39½	39½
Schlumbgr	55½	55½
Schrg-Plgh	46	46
Scott Papr	36½	36
Seagram	87	87
Sears Rbk	26	26½
Secrty Pac	22½	22
Shrwn-Wlms	39	39½
Skyline	15½	15½
Snap-on Tls	32	31½
Southern	27½	27½
St Paul	81½	82½
Stanley Wk	30½	30½
Stone Cntr	12	12½
Sun Co	26½	27½
Suntst Bk	23	23½
Super Valu	23½	23½
SW Bell	56½	57½
Syntex	57½	58½
Sysco	32½	32½
Tandem	11½	11½
Tandy	29½	29½
Tele-comm	14	13½
Teledyne	16	16½
Temple-In	32	32
Tenneco	48	47½
Texaco	57½	57½
Texas Inst	37½	36½
Texas Util	37½	37½
Textron	25½	25½
Time Wrnr	83½	86½
Times Mirr	25½	26½
Timken	22½	22½
Torchmark	47½	47½
Toys R Us	23½	24
Transam	32½	32½
Travelers	17	17
Tribune	35½	35½
TRW	38½	38½
Tyco Lab	43½	43½
UAL	110½	110½
Un Camp	36½	37½
Un Carbide	16	16
Un Pacific	70½	70½
Unilever	89½	90½
Unisys	2½	2½
Unocal	27½	26½
Upjohn	38½	38½
US West	36½	36½
Usair Gp	15½	16½
USF&G	7½	8
UST	32½	32½
USX	30½	30½
Utd Tech	48½	48½
Utd Telcm	23	22½
VF	15½	15½
Wal-Mart	30½	30½
Walgreen	51½	51
Waste Mgmt	35½	35½
Wells Fargo	60½	58½
Westg Elec	27½	27½
Weyerhsr	21½	21½
Whirlpool	24½	24½
Whitman	18½	18½
Winn-Dixie	31	31½
Woolworth	31	30½
Wrigley	53½	54
Wrn-er-Lamb	66½	67½
Xerox	35½	36½

Court of Appeal | Law Report December 21 1990 | Court of Appeal

Overworked doctor has cause of action

Johnstone v Bloomsbury Health Authority

Before Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Leggatt

[Judgment December 19]

A doctor who was required by a health authority to work so much overtime that it was reasonably foreseeable that damage would be caused to his health had a cause of action.

The Court of Appeal so held by majority (Lord Justice Leggatt dissenting) in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal by the defendant, Bloomsbury Health Authority, from Mr Harold Bennett, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, who, on September 22, 1989 had allowed the plaintiff's appeal from the decision of Master Warren to strike out of the writ and statement of claim those parts which sought a declaration that the plaintiff could not lawfully be required to work for more than 72 hours.

In addition the court unanimously allowed in part a cross-appeal by the plaintiff, Dr Christopher Johnstone from the decision of Mr John Gorman, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, who, on June 11, 1990 had struck out that part of the plaintiff's reply in which he had sought to rely on the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977 and on the contention that the contract was void for reasons of public policy.

Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Andrew Hochhauser for the health authority; Mr Stephen Sedley, QC and Mr Antony D. L. White for Dr Johnstone.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the plaintiff was employed by the health authority as a senior house officer in the obstetric department of University College Hospital.

Paragraph 4(b) of his contract of employment provided: "4(b) Your hours of duty shall be the standard working week of 10 units of medical time (40 hours) and in addition you will be available for Class A UMT's (as defined in the terms and conditions of service paragraph 119) on average a week as follows: 1.2.89. Obstetrics 12 UMT's."

The effect of that provision was that the plaintiff was required to work a basic 40 hours a week. In addition, he was required to be available on call for up to a further 48 hours on average. That meant that in some weeks he might have to work considerably more than 88 hours in total, although the average had not to exceed that each week taken over a period.

The prayer in the amended statement of claim sought, inter alia, a declaration that the plaintiff could not lawfully have been required to work for so many hours as would foreseeably injure his health, notwithstanding that the total number of excess hours might have amounted on average to fewer than 48 hours a week.

In his Lordship's opinion, paragraph 4(b) gave the authority the power to require the plaintiff to work up to 88 hours a week on average. But that power had to be exercised in the light of the other contractual terms and in particular their duty to take care of his safety.

Mr Beloff submitted that the authority could not be expected to treat their house officers differently according to their physical stamina. But that was not the law.

In *Paris v Stepney Borough Council* ([1951] AC 367) the employer owed a duty to take greater care of a one-eyed man than a normal man in respect of injuries to the eyes. If employers knew or ought to have known that a workman had a vulnerable back they were in breach of duty in requiring him to lift and move weights which were likely to cause him injury even if a normal man could carry them without risk.

It followed that if the pleaded facts were established, paragraph 4(b) of the contract did not preclude or limit the plaintiff's claim as contended by Mr Beloff and the main appeal was dismissed.

Plaintiff's cross-appeal

In the plaintiff's reply it was pleaded, *inter alia*, that the contractual obligation, which was denied, to work for 88 hours a week was rendered ineffective by section 2(1) of the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977 and/or was void for reasons of public policy.

If, contrary to his Lordship's opinion, the health authority was entitled to succeed on the submissions advanced in support of the appeal in relation to the statement of claim, it was arguable that it could only do so because the effect of paragraph 4(b) had to be construed as an express assumption of risk by the plaintiff or because it operated to restrict or limit the ambit and scope of the duty of care owed by the authority.

If that was the correct analysis, then the substance and effect, although not the form, of the term was such that it could properly be argued to fall within the Act. For that reason reliance on the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977 should not be struck out.

Public Policy

His Lordship had no doubt that it was a matter of grave public concern that junior doctors should be required to work such long hours without proper rest that not only their health might be put at risk but that of their patients as well.

However, that was a matter which was more appropriate for negotiation between the professional bodies representing the doctors and the managers of the National Health Service, or for Parliament, than for resolution by the courts.

LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT, dissenting as to the main appeal, said that it seemed to him that the operation of the regime contemplated by the declaration sought would be fraught with difficulty.

The number of hours that a person could work in a week without injuring his health would vary infinitely according to the health and constitution of that individual, the number of hours worked, the length of continuous periods worked without rest, the nature of the work and many other matters.

To that would then have to be added the difficulties of objective perception that the doctor concerned would be unable in any particular week to work for any longer than he already had.

Taken to its logical conclusion, that approach might prevent the defendants from calling on a weakly doctor to work more than, say, 30 hours in a week lest his health be injured. Yet it was for 88 hours in total that the plaintiff contracted to make himself available. Before he accepted that obligation he knew what it would entail.

It might indeed be scandalous that junior doctors should not now be offered more civilised terms of service in hospitals and the fact that past generations of doctors had accepted such onerous terms without demur was no reason why the terms now offered should not be more enlightened.

But those were matters for negotiation by their association, or in default, for amelioration by the legislature. They did not constitute means by which those bound by current contracts could be enabled by the ingenuity of their lawyers to derogate from obligations freely assumed. Those who could not stand the heat should stay out of the kitchen.

As a matter of law reliance on an express term could not involve breach of an implied term. The defendants could not be said by the mere fact of requiring the plaintiff to work no more hours than he had contracted to work, to be in breach of any contractual duty owed to him; and, since the scope of the relevant duties owed was delimited by contract, he could be in no better position by couching his claim in tort.

In the result, if the plaintiff fell sick during the performance of his employment by the defendants because it was too arduous for him, he did not do so by reason of any relevant breach of duty on the defendants' part.

On the cross-appeal his Lordship agreed with Lord Justice Stuart-Smith.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that he agreed with the decision and reasoning of Lord Justice Stuart-Smith as to the issues arising on the cross-appeal.

As to the appeal, his Lordship also agreed with Lord Justice Stuart-Smith but on rather more restricted grounds.

Although clause 4(b) imposed an absolute duty on the plaintiff to work for 40 hours and in addition an obligation "to be available" for a further 48 hours a week on average, the authority had a discretion as to the number of hours it called on the plaintiff to work overtime.

There was no incompatibility between the plaintiff being under a duty to be available for 48 hours overtime and the authority having the right, subject to its ordinary duty not to injure the plaintiff, to call on him to work up to 48 hours overtime on average.

There had to be some restriction on the authority's rights. In any sphere of employment other than that of junior hospital doctors, an obligation to work up to 88 hours in any one week would be rightly regarded as oppressive and intolerable.

But even that was not the limit of what the authority claimed. Since the plaintiff's obligation was to be available "on average" for 48 hours a week, the authority claimed to be entitled to require him to work more than 88 hours in some weeks regardless of possible injury to his health.

In his Lordship's judgment, the authority's right to call for overtime under clause 4(b) was not an absolute right but had to be limited in some way. There was no technical legal reason why the authority's discretion to call for overtime should not be exercised in conformity with implied duty to take reasonable care not to injure their employee's health.

Thus, notwithstanding clause 4(b) of the contract, the authority could not lawfully require the plaintiff to work so much overtime in any week as it was reasonably foreseeable would damage his health. Whether the authority did in fact require such unlawful overtime would depend on the facts as they emerged at trial. The relief claimed should not be struck out at this stage.

Solicitors: Beachcroft Stanleys; Hempsons.

Test of relevancy on discovery

The Captain Gregos

The test of relevancy on the question of discovery of documents was not the probative value in an action but the question of whether those documents might or could reasonably be expected to provoke a line of enquiry which would be of assistance to a party.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Parker and Lord Justice Bingham) so held on December 7 when allowing the appeal of the owners of the vessel Captain Gregos against the decision of Mr Justice Sheen on March 28, 1990 partially to refuse to order the discovery of certain documents sought from the owners of a cargo of crude oil laden on board the Captain Gregos.

LORD JUSTICE BINGHAM said that while the Court of Appeal would be slow to interfere with a judge's discretion, that would have no force if, before the judge had exercised his discretion, he had misdirected himself upon the law.

The test of relevance upon the question of discovery of documents was not whether those documents would or would not help a party but whether that party should have an opportunity to peruse the documents.

Judge can see welfare officer privately

In re C (a Minor)

Before Lord Justice Dillon and Mr Justice Thorpe

[Judgment December 18]

It was permissible for a judge to see a court welfare officer privately in his room during a trial, but only in exceptional circumstances.

The Court of Appeal so stated when allowing an appeal by the father of a child from an access order made by Judge Aron Owen in Clerkenwell County Court.

Mr James Townend, QC, who did not appear below, and Miss Sarah O'Connor for the father; Mr William Bojczuk for the mother.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that after the father and mother, who were not married, ceased *cohabiting*, the father had access to the child for a while by agreement but in 1989 the mother stopped all access, and the father applied for defined access.

A welfare officer's report stated *inter alia* that the mother had said that she would rather go to prison than allow access. Its conclusion was that perhaps access should not recommence.

Soon after the beginning of the hearing the judge retired and saw the two welfare officers privately in his room. Shortly thereafter he invited counsel in. The hearing resumed in open court and the judge made an order for twice-yearly access for half a day on each occasion.

By direction of the Registrar of Civil Appeals the judge was invited to comment on an affidavit in support of the application for leave to appeal, and he did so. Such a procedure could be helpful in certain circumstances, but it should only be done by the direction of the court.

In his comments, the judge said that it was not his normal practice to see court welfare officers in his room but he thought the case exceptional. He wanted help from the officers and did not at that stage consider it right to discuss in the presence of the parties questions of the mother's possible imprisonment for deliberate breach of a court access order.

The help he wanted was whether the officers could suggest some form of access, as an alternative to the conclusion in the report. They suggested twice-yearly *half-day* access, whereupon counsel were invited in and the suggestion was put to them.

Mr Townend submitted that the judge's order could not stand as a serious irregularity had occurred which was a breach of the fundamental principle that justice had to be seen to be done. He referred to four Court of Appeal cases.

The first was *In re K (Infants)* ([1963] Ch 381) which was applied in *Fowler v Fowler and Sine* ([1963] P 311). In *Fowler* Lord Justice Willmer agreed with Lord Justice Upjohn in *K* that a party had the right to see and comment on all information put before the judge and if it were otherwise the proceedings could not be described as judicial.

He also referred to Lord Justice Davies's suggestion in *K* that there might be an exception in special circumstances, as did Lord Justice Harman, whose view was that there could be no exceptional circumstances.

In *H v H (Irregularity: Effect on Order)* ((1983) 4 FLR 119), apparently the only authority referred to the court was *Fowler*, which was followed. The appeal in *H* was allowed on the ground that a private meeting between the judge and a court welfare officer was an infraction of the principle of justice needing to be seen to be done.

In *In re B (a Minor) (Irregularity of Practice)* ([1990] 1 FLR 300), *H*, the only authority referred to, was followed.

The difficulty with two latter cases was that, after *Fowler* was decided, *K* was reversed: see *Official Solicitor to the Supreme Court v K* ([1965] AC 201). The House of Lords put a different balance on the matter: the paramount consideration was the welfare of the child, and circumstances could arise where the judge in the exercise of his discretion could see persons or receive a report in the absence of the parties or their representatives.

However, their Lordships were clearly of the view that that was not to be recommended as a general practice but was only to be undertaken with great circumspection: see ([1965] AC 201, 222, 235, 238, 242).

Since in *H* and *B* the court was not referred to the House of Lords decision in *K*, those two cases were to be treated as having been decided *per incuriam*.

Applying *K*, his Lordship could not accept the judge's exercise of his discretion. The problem of access where the custodial parent refused access by reason of adverse feelings to the other parent which coloured the custodial parent's view of the best interests of the child, was not uncommon, although difficult to resolve.

The welfare officers could and should have been asked in open court whether they could think of possible alternatives to the conclusion in their report. It was not right for the judge to see the officers privately, even though he then immediately told counsel why he had seen the officers and what they had said to him.

The judge's order should therefore be set aside and there should be a fresh hearing of the father's application before a different judge.

MR JUSTICE THORPE, concurring, said that judges frequently invited court welfare officers to go into the witness box, in open court, to see if there was up-to-date information or to seek assistance on issues arising. The circumstances in the present case fell a long way short of those which would justify seeing welfare officers in private.

Solicitors: John Ford, Finsbury Park; Paul Yanakas & Co, Holloway.

Warranty can be collateral land sale contract

Record v Bell

Before Judge Paul Baker, QC

[Judgment October 5]

Where a contract in two parts for the sale of land, signed by the respective parties, was awaiting exchange and the vendor then offered a warranty as to the state of his title in order to induce the purchaser to exchange, the acceptance of that offer by the purchaser could amount to a collateral contract outside the requirements of section 2 of the Law of Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1989.

Judge Paul Baker, QC, sitting as a judge of the Chancery *Division, so held in a chambers* judgment reported with his Lordship's permission.

Mr Richard Ritchie for the plaintiff vendor; Mr David Halpern for the defendant purchaser.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the purchaser had failed to complete a contract for the sale to him of a residential property and in the vendor's action for specific performance of the contract, he applied for summary judgment under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The purchaser had sought leave to defend, saying the contract was unenforceable because of its non-compliance with section 2 of the 1989 Act.

The contract was in two parts, signed by both the parties, and was ready for exchange but the vendor did not have up-to-date office copies of the Land Registry entry showing him as registered owner. He was also waiting for a charge certificate to arrive.

A letter from the vendor's solicitor to the purchaser's solicitor confirmed a telephone conversation between them when an offer was made to treat the exchange of contracts conditional on the receipt by the purchaser of the office copy entries in question, to which the purchaser's solicitor replied agreeing that the office copies to be delivered to him would be showing the vendor as registered proprietor and that there would be no other entries different from the copy charge certificate *supplied*.

Immediately following those letters the contracts were exchanged. Copies of the relevant Land Registry entries later became available.

The question was whether there had been compliance with section 2 of the 1989 Act, requiring a contract for the sale of land to be in writing, signed by the parties, and to incorporate all the terms expressly agreed in one document or, where contracts had been exchanged, in each; but the section allowed the terms to be incorporated either by being set out in that document or by reference to some other document.

The case for the purchaser had been that section 2 did not cater for side letters of the kind involved in the present case unless they were incorporated into the main agreement and the letters had not been incorporated in the way required by the section.

The case for the vendor had been that the side letters could amount to a collateral contract outside the section; it would be an independent contract collateral to the main contract; it was not itself a contract for the sale of land, and *De Lassalle v Guildford* ([1901] 2 KB 215, 221-222) was relied on.

The terms of the two letters between the parties' solicitors in the present case were not precisely identical but there was no inconsistency with the contract terms in the letter from the purchaser's solicitor and there was no difference in the terms put forward as to what the vendor had guaranteed, that was, that copies of the Land Registery entries would be made available.

In effect, there had been an offer of a warranty by the vendor's solicitor as to the state of the vendor's title which was done as an inducement to the purchaser to exchange contracts. That offer was accepted by the purchaser and the contracts were exchanged.

The warranty was of the sort described in the *De Lassalle* case. It was effective as a contract in itself and effective outside the provisions of section 2 of the 1989 Act. It would be unfortunate if common transactions such as had taken place should cause the main contract to be avoided. There would be judgment for the vendor.

Solicitors: Piper Smith & Basham; Offenbach & Co.

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5	Fragmore	Property	
6	Heywood Williams	Building,Roads	
7	Russell (A)	Industrials L-R	
8	Wintrust	Banks,Discount	
9	Costings	Industrials A-D	
10	Reed Executive	Industrials L-R	
11	Benchmark	Banks,Discount	
12	Bunn	Drapery,Stores	
13	Utd Newspapers (ns)	Newspapers,Pub	
14	Hunting	Industrials E-K	
15	Sycamore	Industrials S-Z	
16	Warburg SG	Banks,Discount	
17	Bristol	Newspapers,Pub	
18	Bespak	Industrials A-D	
19	Sterling Ind	Industrials S-Z	
20	Hardys & Hansons	Breweries	
21	Triplex Lloyd	Industrials S-Z	
22	Waddington (J)	Paper,Print,Adv	
23	Ramars Group	Drapery,Stores	
24	Tibbet & Britten	Transport	
25	Alexon	Drapery,Stores	
26	Securicor	Industrials S-Z	
27	Euro Leisure	Leisure	
28	Cropper (James)	Paper,Print,Adv	
29	Erith	Building,Roads	
30	Smithfd Beech (ns)	Industrials S-Z	
31	Amersham	Chemicals,Plas	
32	Bodycote	Industrials A-D	
33	Park Foods	Foods	
34	Cosalt	Industrials A-D	
35	Paxton Group	Motors,Aircraft	
36	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D	
37	Black (Peter)	Industrials A-D	
38	Spring Ram	Industrials S-Z	
39	Marshalls	Building,Roads	
40	Tay Homes	Building,Roads	
41	Boddington	Breweries	
42	SA Breweries	Breweries	
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Ethical	42.28	44.97	-0.02	2.22

ABTRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
10, Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ
Tel: 0224 633070 dealing (Freephone) 0800 833580
99, Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7QQ
Tel: 071-374 8801

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
Am Inc/Gth	24.48	25.98	+0.10	3.05
Euro	67.66	71.91	-0.14	0.00
Euro Inc	70.45	74.98e	-0.12	1.03
Exmpt	565.9	601.4	+0.4	3.38
Extra Inc	35.69	38.10e	+0.09	6.64
F/E Emerg Ec	39.30	42.09	+0.02	1.52

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TRUSTS
Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL
Tel: 0793 514514 dealing 0793 610366

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
High Inc	312.3	332.5	+1.9	5.59
Equity Inc	172.2	183.3c	+0.9	6.11
High Yield	177.1	188.5	+1.4	5.95
Balanced	459.0	488.6e	+3.3	4.06
Am Inc	27.05	28.80	+0.35	4.44
World Ass Val	26.78	28.52	+0.16	1.61
Japan	118.4	126.2	+0.4	0.01
Sits of Am	220.4	234.7e	+2.6	0.92

BARCLAYS UNICORN
Unicorn House, 252, Romford Rd E7 Tel: 081-534 5544

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
Capit	79.64	85.61	+0.35	4.39
Euro Gth Inc	84.01	89.81	+0.24	1.52
Extra Inc	85.08	91.00	+0.15	7.48
General	174.0	186.1	+0.8	4.55
Gt/Fxd Income	48.89	50.71e	-0.07	10.90
Inc Trust	390.7	417.9	+1.3	6.73

BARING FUND MANAGERS
PO Box 156, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4XQ
Tel: 081-658 9002

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
Amer Gth	45.69	48.60	+0.77	1.20
Am Sm Cos	50.05	53.08	+0.82	1.00
Australia	45.57	48.98	+0.12	3.10
Convertible	36.87	40.57e	+0.16	8.20
East	100.1	107.5	-0.2	1.20
Equity Inc	64.44	68.91	-0.17	6.40
Euro Gth	163.9	174.3	-0.3	2.40
Euro Smlr Cos	143.9	153.8e	-0.2	0.20
Exmpt	60.00	61.91	-0.10	4.20
German Gth	42.89	45.64	-0.11	0.00
Global Gth	82.93	87.02e	+0.48	0.10
Jap Gth	138.5	142.7	+0.8	0.00
Jap Sunrise	114.9	122.8	-0.2	0.00
Portfolio	83.05	88.56	+0.01	4.00
Do Acc	137.9	143.8	-0.1	4.00
UK Growth	46.71	50.69	-0.03	4.90
UK Smlr Cos	58.11	63.27	-0.11	3.40
Select Man Fd	46.42	49.83	+0.08	2.00

BROWN SHIPLEY
9-17, Perrymount Rd, Haywards Heath Tel: 0444 458144

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
Financial	103.7	110.4	-1.7	6.10
Smlr Cos Acc	167.1	178.0	-1.7	0.90
Do Inc	100.9	107.5	-1.0	2.78
High Inc	88.68	93.43	-0.69	8.05
Income	88.67	94.20	+0.23	5.98
Man Portf Inv	70.60	75.19	-0.29	3.47
Do Acc	125.9	134.1	-0.4	2.20
Nth Amer	32.12	33.51e	+0.42	0.39
Orient	87.69	93.28	+0.25	0.36
Exmpt	251.9	267.1e	+0.5	4.91
Recov	31.39	33.49e	-0.06	2.89
German	34.74	37.20	+0.06	0.11
Intl Recov	23.12	24.62	+0.14	0.28

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
Master Portf	272.12	75.82	+0.14	4.07
Do Acc	278.79	82.94	+0.15	4.07
Spec Sits	54.09	57.55	+0.12	4.19
Do Acc	58.88	62.64	+0.14	4.19

CAPEL (JAMES) MANAGEMENT
PO Box 552 7 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4HU Tel: 071-626 0566 071-626 6363

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
Amer Index	114.5	122.1	+0.9	1.95
Capit	409.1	436.6	+2.6	5.18
Euro Index	101.2	107.9	-0.2	1.88
Euro Growth	63.66	67.93e	-0.01	2.80
Far East S S	52.95	56.50e	+0.21	0.89
Gold Gen S S	48.92	52.20	+0.04	8.94
Income	385.3	411.2	+0.8	6.50
Intl Gth	51.62	55.09	+0.26	1.94
Jap Index	56.73	60.54	+0.77	0.00
N Amer	234.0	249.7	+1.6	2.28
Tiger Index	66.44	70.90	+0.26	2.54

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
16 Tokenhouse Yard, London EC2R 7AN
Tel: 071-588 0708

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
Amer Portf	44.16	47.24e	+0.29	2.48
Euro Port	56.92	60.98	-0.34	1.50
Jap Portf	38.82	41.63	+0.21	2.26
Pacific Portf	44.99	48.39e	-0.14	2.50
Portf	82.29	88.93	+0.05	2.89
UK Inc/Gth	49.98	53.73	+0.23	7.11

CENTRAL BOARD OF FINANCE OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND
2, Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ Tel: 071-588 1815

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
Inv	471.9	475.4e	..	5.91
Fixed Int	131.5	131.8e	..	11.00
Deposit	100.0		..	14.45

CHARITIES OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND
2, Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ Tel: 071-588 1815

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
Income	453.6	457.8	..	8.14
Acc	£10.63	15.77	..	..
Deposit	100.0		..	14.45

CIGNA UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
PO Box 138 Beckenham Kent BR3 4PH Tel: 081-663 3030

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
Euro Gth	76.41	80.64e	-0.04	1.20
1992 Euro Spc	56.82	60.54	-0.11	1.00
Intl Inc	58.38	62.43e	-0.05	6.00
NAm Gth	37.86	40.27	-0.03	1.90
Pacific Gth	60.67	65.09e	-0.03	1.50
UK Gth Acc	73.48	78.59	+0.35	3.10
Do Dist	66.11	70.69	+0.32	3.10
UK Income	58.51	69.43	+0.14	6.50

CLERICAL MEDICAL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH Tel: 0800 373393

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
Am Growth	20.69	21.90	+0.15	0.16
Atlas Gth	20.39	21.74e	+0.07	1.01
Dragon Gth	27.37	29.91	-0.03	1.50
Equity Hi Inc	56.20	59.47e	+0.01	6.27
Do Acc	63.44	67.13e	+0.01	6.27
Euro Growth	32.12	34.35	+0.09	1.00
Evergreen	19.72	20.98	+0.19	0.00
Genl Equity	53.89	56.68	+0.02	4.31
Gt/Fxd Int Inc	22.87	24.07	-0.02	10.29
Jap Growth	36.68	39.23	+0.16	0.00
Pedigree Gth	30.78	32.87	+0.01	3.76
Redre Inc	19.58	20.94e	+0.01	7.67
Spec Sits	22.13	24.25	-0.08	4.25
UK/Cases	24.43	25.85	-0.04	2.62

COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MANAGERS
St Helen's, 1, Undershaft, London EC3P 3DQ Tel: 071-283 7500 Dealing 081-686 9818

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
Am Gth	58.28	61.98	+0.50	3.03
Euro Gth	72.12	76.72	+0.01	1.98
Far East	59.46	63.28	+0.31	0.99
Gemma Inc	25.71	27.35	..	4.40
Do Acc	26.61	28.31	..	4.40
Gilt/Fxd Int	45.82	48.31	+0.12	8.04
Inc	56.01	58.59e	+0.32	6.13
Do Acc	65.29	69.48e	+0.36	6.13
Jap Gwth	30.73	32.69	+0.13	0.00
Monthly Inc	39.09	41.59e	..	11.02
Private Inv Pt	47.39	50.41e	+0.17	5.89
Do Acc	53.07	56.46e	+0.18	5.89
Proinsa Inv Pt	51.11	54.37e	+0.31	3.46
Prog Inv Pt	49.81	52.99e	+0.28	4.06
UK/Gen Inc	54.78	58.28e	+0.33	4.86

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
UK Balan Inc	81.22	86.40e	+0.25	4.04
Do Acc	90.32	96.05e	+0.28	4.04
UK Gth Accum	131.0	139.4	+0.3	2.87
UK High Inc	97.79	104.0e	+0.37	6.68
N Amer Acc	65.05	69.89	+0.77	1.43
Euro Acc	98.61	104.9	..	0.26
UK Gilt/FI Inc	51.39	55.16e	+0.06	8.54
Do Acc	72.08	76.47e	+0.08	8.54
Intl Sp S Acc	34.01	36.18	+0.02	1.03
Emerald Opp	45.67	48.68	+0.03	1.86

ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
41, Kensington Gardens London SW7 4JU
Tel: 071 373 7281

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
Endurance	121.5	129.2	..	2.79

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
Walton Street Aylesbury, HP21 7QW Tel: 0296 431480

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
Eqtble Pelican	92.40	97.28	+0.81	5.55
High Inc	94.76	99.75e	+0.73	7.23
Gt/Fxd Interest	47.45	49.98	-0.01	9.85
T Of Inv Ts	95.67	100.7	+0.44	3.46
Spec Sits	86.94	91.52	+0.68	5.05
N Am	56.15	59.11	+0.64	1.84
Far East	139.7	147.1	+0.66	1.73
Intl Gth	63.42	66.76	+0.43	3.00
Euro	50.70	53.57	+0.02	2.23
Smlr Cos	46.90	49.37	-0.06	8.99

EQUITY & LAW
St. George Hse Corporation St. Coventry CV1 1GD Tel: 0203 553231

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
UK Gth Accum	217.1	231.0	+0.5	4.49
Do Inc	165.7	176.3	+0.3	4.49
Higher Inc Acc	384.9	409.5	+0.6	6.42
Do Inc	260.5	277.2	+0.4	6.42
Gilt/Fxd Acc	126.6	133.3	-0.1	9.41
Do Inc	76.66	82.60	-0.10	9.41
N America	112.1	119.3	+1.1	0.40
Far East	181.7	193.3	-1.0	1.12
Europe	190.8	203.0	-0.9	0.87
Genl	304.4	323.9	+0.0	4.40
Br Excellence	45.60	48.51e	+0.07	4.38
Br Fdmtls Inc	50.48	53.71	+0.06	7.32
Do Acc	58.05	61.76	+0.06	7.32
Global Ops	46.05	49.00e	-0.20	1.26

FS INVESTMENT MANAGERS
190, West George St, Glasgow G2 2PA Tel: 041-332 3132

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
Balan Gth Acc	68.05	72.78	-0.11	2.91
Do Inc	64.69	69.18	-0.10	2.91
High Yield Acc	36.97	39.33	+0.01	5.59
Do Inc	27.06	28.80	..	5.59
Inc Gth Acc	55.09	58.91e	+0.01	5.31
Do Inc	40.39	43.19e	+0.01	5.31
Service Co Acc	54.01	57.75	-0.25	2.08
Do Inc	51.88	55.49	-0.24	2.08
Am Gth Acc	22.79	24.37	+0.35	1.70
Do Inc	22.37	23.92	+0.28	1.70
Euro Gth Acc	24.52	26.22	-0.03	0.84
Do Inc	24.05	25.73	-0.03	0.84

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD
Oakhill House, 130 Tonbridge Road Hildenborough Kent TN11 9DZ Tel: 0800 414161

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
American	116.2	122.9	+0.9	0.00
Am Equity Inc	25.15	26.64	+0.03	3.12
Am Spec Sits	45.74	48.47	+0.08	0.00
ASEAN	16.73	16.75	-0.07	0.00
Cash Unit	123.59		+0.08	14.41
European	94.3	100.2	..	0.00
Euro Inc	26.22	27.80	+0.03	3.79
Global Conv	17.13	18.33e	-0.03	7.19
Far East Inc	31.55	33.49e	-0.17	2.20
Gt/Fxd Interest	25.10	25.64e	..	10.02
Growth/Inc	111.2	118.3e	+0.2	5.89
Jap Spec Sits	64.60	68.84	-0.06	0.00
Japan	134.5	142.9	+0.2	0.00
Managed Intl	134.2	142.8	+0.3	0.00
Inc Plus	95.39	102.3e	+0.49	7.33
Famous Name	44.23	47.44	-0.06	0.00
SE Asia	48.73	52.07	-0.09	0.00
Spec Sits	262.8	281.7	-2.7	0.00
Jap Smlr Cos	26.66	28.52	-0.04	0.00
Intl Bond	22.81	23.94	+0.02	6.10
Recov	20.51	22.08	-0.05	0.00
Moneybuilder	27.54	29.39	-0.05	0.00
Euro Ops 1992	34.25	36.42	-0.06	0.00

FOREIGN & COLONIAL
8th Floor, Exchange Hse Primrose Street London EC2A 2NY Tel: 071-628 8000

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
Euro Income	75.02	80.24	+0.05	1.17

The prices in this section refer to Wednesday's trading

● Ex dividend. c Cum dividend. k Cum stock split. s Ex stock split. m Cum all (any two or more of above). a Ex all (any two or more of above). Dealing or valuation days: (1) Monday. (2) Tuesday. (3) Wednesday. (4) Thursday. (5) Friday.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

1990 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
93	27	Wassall			+1	2.6	6.5	
	6½	Westport		7	-	0.8	12.3	4.6
125	33	West Scaffold	30	35	-	6.7	20.3	3.5
	5	Wharfdale	7		-			10.6
75	32	Whatney Mackay	30	37	+2	2.7	7.9	12.2
	6	William (Rex) Hldgs			-			
73	46	Wood John D & Co			-		4.8	17.9
	21	Wild of Leather						
282	123	Wyevale		155	-			19.1
90	60	Wyko			-1			6.5
72	6½	XCL Sander		7	-	-	-	-
	4	Xtra-vision	1	10	-	-	-	-
44	36	Yelverton	37	40	-	1.0		18.6
178	133	Young Group		155	-	10.4	7.8	6.2
15	3	Zetick Group		4	-	-	-	-

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

THIRD MARKET

1990 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
63	28	Andaman Res	42	47	+2	-	-	-
225	205	Cala Inc	215	225	-	-	-	24.1
360	290	Chartwell	295	305	-	1.3	0.4	5.6
95	36	Chelsea Art	33	38	-	-	-	-
24	6	Chemex Intl	13	16	-	-	-	-
215	85	Clipbond Storage	80	90	-	-	-	-
65	28	Edenglow	27	32	+2	-	-	-
16	5	Far E Res	5	7	-	-	-	-
17	2½	Honorbilt			-	-	-	-
23	6	Kemp (PE)	5	7	-	-	-	-
67	2	Leading Lsr	1	3	-	-	-	-
65	27	UPL	28	35	-	-	-	-
89	8	Video Magic Gp	5	10	-	-	-	1.9

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 93.0 (day's range 93.0-93.1).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates for December 20

	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New Yrk	1.9075-1.9325	1.9075-1.9085	0.97-0.95pr	2.79-2.76pr
Montrl	2.2117-2.2388	2.2117-2.2158	0.47-0.43pr	0.91-0.80pr
Amstrdm	3.2169-3.2364	3.2246-3.2282	1⅛-1⅛pr	3⅝-3⅛pr
Brussels	58.89-59.43	59.08-59.30	24-16pr	59-48pr
Copnhgn	11.0443-11.0978	11.0540-11.0788	3⅝-3⅛pr	9⅝-9pr
Dublin	1.0741-1.0751	1.0741-1.0751	29-24pr	57-48pr
Frankft	2.8503-2.8683	2.8589-2.8622	1⅛-1pr	2⅛-2pr
Lisbon	252.83-255.61	253.79-254.88	44-24pr	par-61ds
Madrid	181.78-183.65	181.78-182.55	6-15ds	39-48ds
Milan	2152.14-2169.43	2152.14-2157.08	2pr-par	5-2pr
Oslo	11.2104-11.2741	11.2104-11.2353	3-2⅛pr	6⅛-5⅛pr
Paris	9.7321-9.7773	9.7321-9.7467	3⅛-3pr	7⅛-7⅛pr
Stckhlm	10.7583-10.8153	10.7583-10.7830	par-⅛ds	1⅛-1⅛ds
Tokyo	256.94-260.31	256.94-257.27	1⅛-1⅛pr	3⅛-3⅛pr
Vienna	20.04-20.18	20.10-20.18	9⅛-7⅛pr	23⅛-20⅛pr
Zurich	2.4424-2.4601	2.4559-2.4601	1-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr

Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	9539.56-9562.73
Australia dollar	2.4621-2.4666
Bahrain dinar	n/a
Brazil cruzeiro*	301.974-303.475
Cyprus pound	0.8220-0.8320
Finland marka	6.8975-6.9575
Greece drachma	297.90-301.10
Hong Kong dollar	14.9516-14.9614
India rupee	34.89-35.29
Kuwait dinar KD	n/a
Malaysia ringgit	5.1759-5.1806
Mexico peso	5650-5750
New Zealand dollar	3.2436-3.2509
Saudi Arabia riyal	n/a
Singapore dollar	3.3202-3.3258
S Africa rand (fin)	6.4113-6.5239
S Africa rand (com)	4.8653-4.8775
U A E dirham	n/a

*Lloyds Bank. Rates supplied by Extel and Barclays Bank GTS

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.7770-1.7785	Denmark	5.7825-5.7875	Italy	1127.0-1128.0
Singapore	1.7310-1.7330	Germany	1.4945-1.4955	Belgium (Com)	30.93-30.96
Malaysia	2.7000-2.7010	Switzerland	1.2800-1.2810	Hong Kong	7.7995-7.8005
Australia	1.2936-1.2953	Netherlands	1.6850-1.6860	Portugal	132.50-132.70
Canada	1.1587-1.1597	France	5.0865-5.0915	Spain	95.45-95.65
Sweden	5.6300-5.6350	Japan	134.35-134.45	Austria	10.50-10.52
Norway	5.8750-5.8800				

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank GTS and Extel.

MONEY MARKETS

Base Rates %: Clearing Banks 14 Finance Hse 14
Discount Market Loans %
Overnight High: 14⅛ Low 13½ Week fixed: 14⅛
Treasury Bills (Discount %)
Buying: 2 mth — 13¹⁹⁄₃₂ 3 mth — 13¹¹⁄₁₆
Selling: 2 mth — 13¹⁷⁄₃₂ 3 mth — 13⁹⁄₃₂
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %): 1 mth: 13²⁹⁄₃₂-²⁷⁄₃₂
2 mth: 13⅞-13⁹⁄₁₆ 3 mth: 13⅝-13⁹⁄₁₆ 6 mth 12⁹⁄₁₆-12½
Trade Bills (Discount %): 1 mth: 14¹³⁄₃₂
2 mth: 14⅛ 3 mth: 14 6 mth 12⁹⁄₁₆
Interbank (%). Overnight: open 14½ close 13½
1 week: 14⅞-14⅛ 1 mth: 14⁵⁄₁₆-14⅛ 3 mth: 14-13¹⁵⁄₁₆
6 mth: 13⁷⁄₁₆-13⅜ 9 mth: 13¹⁄₁₆-12⅞ 12 mth: 12¹³⁄₁₆-⅝
Local Authority Deposits (%)
2 day: 14⅛ 7 day: 14⅛ 1 mth: 14⅛
3 mth: 14 6 mth: 13⅜ 12 mth: 12⅞
Sterling CDs (%): 1 mth: 14⁵⁄₁₆-14³⁄₁₆
3 mth: 13¹⁵⁄₁₆-⅞ 6 mth: 13⁹⁄₁₆-⁷⁄₁₆ 12 mth 12¹¹⁄₁₆-⁹⁄₁₆
Dollar CDs (%): 1 mth: 8.30-8.25
3 mth: 7.85-7.80 6 mth: 7.60-7.55 12 mth 7.48-7.43
Building Society CDs (%)
1 mth: 14⁷⁄₃₂-⁵⁄₃₂ 2 mth: 14¹⁄₁₆-14 3 mth: 14-13³¹⁄₃₂
6 mth: 13⅜-13⁵⁄₁₆ 9 mth: 13-12⅞ 12 mth: 12¹¹⁄₁₆-⅝

ECGD

Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Oct 31, 1990. Agreed rates Nov 26, 1990 to Dec 25, 1990. Scheme I: 15.08 per cent. Schemes II & III: 15.32 per cent. Reference rate Sept 29, 1990 to Oct 31, 1990. Scheme IV & V: 14.164 per cent.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
Dollar:	7¹⁵⁄₁₆-8¹⁵⁄₁₆	8⁵⁄₁₆-8	7⅞-7¹¹⁄₁₆	7⅝-7⁹⁄₁₆
Call: 7⅛-6⅞				
Deutschemark:	10-9⅞	9⅞-9⅛	9⅞-9⅛	9⅞-9⅛
Call: 8½-7½				
French Franc:	10⅛-10	10⅛-10	10⅛-10⅛	10⅛-10⅛
Call: 10-9				
Swiss Franc:	11-10⅞	9⁵⁄₁₆-9³⁄₁₆	9⅛-8¹⁵⁄₁₆	8¹¹⁄₁₆-8⁹⁄₁₆
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GOLD BULLION (Per ounce)

Open: $382.10-382.60 Close: $385.20-385.70
High: $385.20-385.70 Low: $382.15-382.65

GOLD COINS (Per coin, Ex VAT)

Britannia: $396.00-397.00 (£206.50-207.50)
Krugerrand: $385.00-388.00 (£200.50-201.50)
Mapleleaf (/1oz): $395.75-397.75 (£206.75-207.75)
American Eagles: $396.75-397.75 (£206.75-207.75)
New Sovereigns: $92.50-93.50 (£48.00-49.00)
Old Sovereigns: $93.00-94.00 (£48.25-49.25)

PRECIOUS METALS

Platinum pm fix: $426.00 (£222.55)
Palladium pm fix: $89.55 (£46.80)
Spot Silver: $4.16-4.19 (£2.16-2.19)
Rates supplied by Baird & Co

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
FT-SE 100			Previous open interest 22684		
Dec 90	2184.0	2189.0	2164.0	2163.0	5696
Mar 91	2223.0	2226.0	2194.0	2201.0	2578
Three Month Sterling			Previous open interest 116920		
Mar 91	87.66	87.74	87.58	87.62	19500
Jun 91	88.46	88.53	88.37	88.37	4636
Three Month Eurodollar			Previous open interest 30712		
Mar 91	92.80	92.81	92.78	92.77	3906
Jun 91	92.87	92.87	92.81	92.84	814
Three Month Euro DM			Previous open interest 62662		
Mar 91	90.82	90.84	90.66	90.80	16225
Jun 91	90.94	90.94	90.80	90.82	2032

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
Three month ECU			Previous open interest 953		
Mar 91	89.84	89.84	89.76	89.77	260
US Treasury Bond			Previous open interest 5782		
Mar 91	96-18	96-20	96-27	96-06	3456
Long Gilt			Previous open interest 25244		
Dec 90				88-14	0
Mar 91	89-17	89-18	88-26	88-28	11457
Japanese Govt Bond			Previous open interest 539		
Mar 91	95.32	95.42	95.15	95.20	165
German Govt Bond			Previous open interest 83427		
Mar 91	83.76	83.79	82.83	82.88	30073
Jun 91	83.75	83.75	83.02	82.99	192

COMMODITIES

LONDON OIL REPORTS - London 6.00pm: The complete Jan Brent programme was issued after some of the North Sea safety work was postponed. Prices eased slightly. Products, mixed in thin trading.

CRUDE OILS/assessed ($/BBL FOB)

Brent Phys	28.60	-0.55
15 day Jan	27.50	-0.35
15 day Feb	26.40	-0.15
WTI Jan	28.95	-0.25
WTI Feb	28.15	-0.15

PRODUCTS Buy/sell $/MT.
Spot CIF NW Euro - prompt delivery

Prem Gas .15		255-257	-1
Gasoil EEC	+2	263-265	-2
Non 1H Jan	+4	270-271	+4
Non 1H Feb	+3	257-258	+3
3.5 Fuel Oil		137-139	
Naphtha	-3	266-270	-2

BIFFEX
GNI Freight Futures Dry Cargo ($10/pt)

Dec 90	Hi —— Low	Close 1441
Jan 91	Hi 1475-1443 Low	Close 1446
Apr 91	Hi 1362-1325 Low	Close 1326
Jul 91	Hi 1085-1070 Low	Close 1070

Vol 196 lots Open interest 4063
Dry cargo index 1445 +2

IPE FUTURES

GAS OIL	AMT Futures
Jan	258.50-58.25
Feb	244.75-44.50
Mar	230.00-29.50
Apr	217.00-16.00
May	212.00-05.00
Jun	210.00-03.00
Jul	unq
Vol	5606

BRENT	AMT Futures
Jan	27.25-27.30
Feb	26.20-26.30
Vol	n/a

LONDON POTATO FUTURES (£/tonne)

Mth	Open	Close
Feb	89.5	90.8
Apr	134.4	133.4
May	153.0	152.5
		Vol 59

LONDON FOX

COCOA	AMT Futures
Dec 620-614	Sep 759-758
Mar 671-670	Dec 788-787
May 705-703	Mar 818-816
Jul 733-731	Vol 3055

COFFEE	AMT Futures
Jan 600-599	Sep 617-614
Mar 580-579	Nov 632-627
May 584-583	Jan 643-637
Jul 602-600	Vol 3710

SUGAR FOB	C Czarnikow Vol: 619
Mar 215.4-15.2	Oct 221.8-20.4
May 218.0-17.8	Dec 220.0-15.4
Aug 222.0-21.0	Mar 224.0-22.0

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES
WHEAT close (£/t) Vol 294
Ja 119.25 Mr 122.75 My 126.30
Jn 128.00 Sp 106.50 Nv 111.20
BARLEY close (£/t) Vol 71
Ja 115.00 Mr 118.80 My 120.00
Sp 106.10 Nv 109.10 Ja 112.60
HI-PRO SOYABEAN Vol 40
Feb 117.0-16.0 Aug 121.0-20.0
Apr 119.5-18.5 Oct 122.0-21.0
Jun 120.5-20.0 Dec unq

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
Official prices/volume previous day Rudolf Wolff

(£/tonne)	Cash	3 month	Vol
Copper Gde A	1293.0-1294.0	1305.0-1306.0	584000
Lead	317.00-318.00	331.50-332.00	78850
Zinc Spec Hi*	1239.0-1240.0	1243.0-1244.0	136375
Tin*	5615-5620	5720-5730	12620
Aluminium Hi*	1507.0-1508.0	1543.0-1544.0	494150
Nickel*	8400.0-8425.0	8350.0-8360.0	19224

† (Cents per Troy oz). * ($ per tonne)

FOX MGMI INDEX

	Bid	Offer
Jan	159.20	160.20
Feb	159.50	160.50
Mar	159.00	160.00

● 5pm prices Vol: 332

LONDON MEAT FUTURES (/kg)
Live Pig Vol: 18

Mth	Open	Close
Jan	unq	89.5
Feb	unq	91.0
Mar	unq	94.8

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Av'ge fatstock prices at representative markets on December 20

(/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB (p)	78.35	140.93	109.45
GB (+/-)	-2.07	-3.66	-0.73
Eng/Wal (%)	-49.9	-57.8	-56.0
Eng/Wal (p)	78.44	144.06	110.04
Eng/Wal (+/-)	-2.03	-1.91	-0.24
Scotland (%)	-52.6	-40.0	-60.1
Scotland (p)	70.23	129.42	106.59
Scotland (+/-)	-4.82	-7.80	-3.48

* Estimated dead carcase weight

هكذا من الأصل

Making an Immpact in the harsh market for jobs at any age

By Brian Collett

A SELF-HELP group for people whose age prevents them getting a job has spawned a management consultancy business.

The group was founded a year ago by Dr Barry Richardson, a psychologist who had worked abroad for 25 years, but could not find work on his return to Britain at the age of 49.

He invited other victims of ageism to submit their names for a register, with the aim of having these people contact one another to form businesses or offer their services.

Those replying to Dr Richardson's address in Reading, Berkshire, included chemists, teachers, salesmen, engineers and bank managers. There are now about 300 people on the register, which has been called Immpact: Immediate Professional Action. There is no subscription, but donations are welcome.

One result of the initiative is Immpact Management Services, a consultancy formed in June by Geoff Taylor, a management and finance specialist who was chairman of the Hong Kong chamber of commerce, Tony Mason, a computer and electronics specialist, and Andrew Borysiewicz, an information technology specialist.

The company is now investigating a failing software business to see how much can be salvaged and is advising the shareholders. It is also designing a computer system for small businesses. The company has centres in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, Staines, Middlesex, and Reading, and uses 50 register members as consultants.

A job club has developed out of Immpact at Falkirk, Central, where executives are helped with job searches, interview techniques and applications.

Dr Richardson, who is now head of human factor studies at a Business School at Regent's College, central London, is setting up a second job club at the college with the help of an employment department grant.

● Further information: Immpact, 5 South Street, Reading, Berkshire RG1 4QP.

"No, no-one else is coming — you're the only one who hasn't gone bust"

Everything coming up Bunches

By James Gray

DRIED flowers are not the most obvious basis for a successful business, particularly when numerous wholesalers and specialist flower decorators have collapsed or teetered on the brink during the five years that Bunches has been finding its feet.

Bunches grew out of a business started in 1984 by Robin Craster. She began selling unusual herbs grown in a rented 100 ft greenhouse near her home in the Essex village of Wendens Ambo.

She borrowed a stall at Saffron Walden market and found that shops in London, such as Justin de Blank, were keen to buy pot herbs. Presentation and delivery, however, proved to be uneconomical and stocks ran out by the end of September. In desperation, Mrs Craster turned to the idea of dried flowers after catching sight of a "dreadfully boring arrangement" on someone's mantelpiece. Bunches was born.

Mrs Craster bought her first stock of dried flowers from Nine Elms with a £100 loan, and took her trade to markets at Cambridge, Bishops Stortford and Saffron Walden. All the flowers came from The Netherlands, but Mrs Craster was not satisfied.

She said: "The English style is more informal and luxuriant, and there was nothing to cater for this market. There was a need for a wider selection of colours and types." She visited The Netherlands and observed the supplier's drying methods and, on her return, found a local couple who wanted to grow flowers for drying.

A barn was equipped with a fan heater and ensured that the flowers were kept in the dark, essential for preserving their colours. The first year of home grown flowers, 1986, yielded 22 crops and was a great success. The following year, an extra barn was rented and two women were employed to help with the drying. Rain, however, ruined much of that year's crops. Fortunately, Nine Elms was able to meet the shortfall. An order for 20 wreaths for a Liberal Party ball and a dried floral gift for the Duchess of Gloucester convinced Mrs Craster she should begin a private design service.

Workshops for up to ten people were launched in 1988 in the conservatory of Mrs Craster's Victorian home, which is used as a showroom.

On April 7 last year, disaster struck. A fire reduced all stock and the showroom to ashes, and only a return to supplies from Nine Elms and selling herbs saved the business. The Bunches showroom was rebuilt and restocked in time for last Christmas.

Recession has seen more local farmers' wives keen to grow flowers for revenue and learn how to dry them. Supplies now arrive from all parts of the country. Mrs Craster also buys dried hops from Kent, hydrangeas from Wales and exotic blooms from Australia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

In five years, Bunches has built up a healthy resilience and flexibility. Mrs Craster now feels ready to cash in on her years of caution.

This year, Barclay's Bank and Hill Samuel asked her to reproduce their corporate emblems in dried flowers. Stately homes, hotels and restaurants, prestige offices and showrooms, receptions and weddings are among the company's target customers for 1991.

Sweet smell of success: Robin Craster in the conservatory showroom at her Essex home

Most small business owners 'are workaholics'

By Derek Harris

MOST of those running a small business work at least 50 hours a week and almost half clock up 60 hours or more. Some work as many as 80 hours, while the majority work at the weekend.

The figures come from a survey, *Small Business Today*, by American Express, which is developing its services for smaller companies.

Of more than 400 small business owners interviewed, the report says, "most of them could be called workaholics". The businessmen said finding money to launch their firms was their biggest hurdle and cashflow was a constant problem. Managing the books made the third greatest demand on time, says the survey, with nearly six out of ten describing the job as a chore.

Making money ranked fourth among reasons given for setting up in business. Despite the harsh economic climate, 84 per cent of respondents were optimistic about prospects. The best age at which to start up on your own is said to be in the thirties.

☐ BDO Binder Hamlyn, the chartered accountant, has produced a second edition of its free guide on the legal form your company should take. The guide, *Sole Trader, Partnership or Limited Company*, considers the options of being a sole trader with unlimited liability, a limited company and franchising, among others. The guide is available from *Christopher Honeyman Brown*, BDO Binder Hamlyn, 20 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7BH.

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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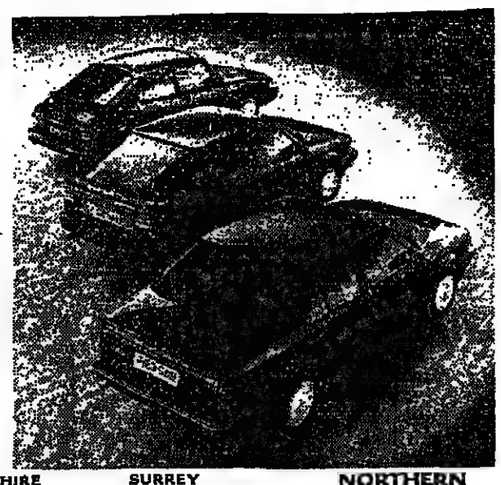

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90(G) 200E Diamond Blue 10,000m	£19,995	£18,995
90(G) 230E Arctic White 12,000m	£24,995	£22,995
90(G) 230E Sportline Astral Silver 13,000m	£27,995	£24,995
89(G) 260E Sportline Astral Silver 17,000m	£37,995	£34,995
88(G) 420SE Anthracite, 11,000m	£35,995	£31,995
90(H) 300E 24v Smoke Silver 9,000m	£46,995	£42,995
90(H) 560SEC Pearl Grey 15,000m	£32,995	£29,995
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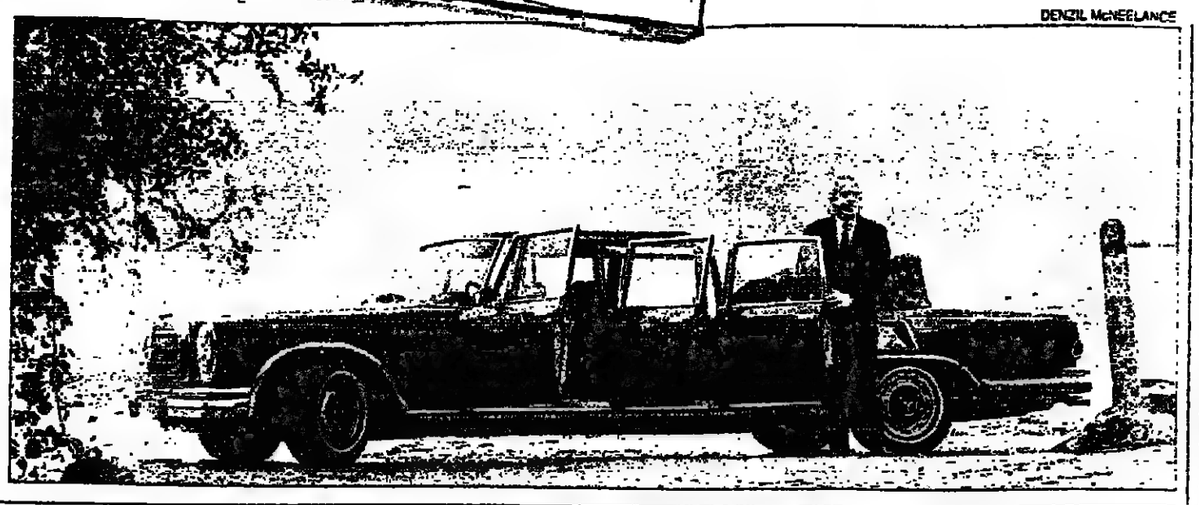
هكذا من الاصل

Black magic out of Africa

AN IMPRESSIVE entrance needs an impressive car. This Mercedes 600 state landaulette is the car for the statesman with a summit to go to or a film star expecting the pop of flashbulbs at a movie premiere. The black, six-door vehicle, one of only about half a dozen made and worth £500,000, was built for the president of the African republic of Gabon. It is now owned by Straight Eight Ltd, of Shepherd's Bush, west London, which took the car, with its 6.3-litre V8 engine, to Germany for the Essen Motor Show last week. The car won the concours d'élegance as best car.

DENZIL McNEELANCE



Bring back a dash of romance

Cars today are reliable, safe, high-tech and boring — and badly in need of a touch of style, says Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

The end-of-term report on the car-makers for 1990 is the statement that damns every schoolboy: "Must do better." New models rolled off the production lines and into the showrooms faster than ever, but like peas from the same pod.

These were the cars designed by computer, built by robots and driven by motorists with glazed eyes who yearn for something more interesting.

Cars are priced competitively and perform within a few decimal points of one another on speed, economy and comfort these days. But few could claim to look outstandingly different.

Designers argue that the demands of aerodynamics limit their scope for change. There are also the demands of mass manufacturers, who will not allow too much deviation from the norm.

Manufacturers claim the public do not like change. Ford, for example, had its fingers burnt in 1982 with the launch of the Sierra, then a radical step forward in the mid-range market. The car's *smooth, drop-nosed jelly-mould* shape had a poor reception.

This year, there were, supposedly, to be no mistakes and Ford's designers spent weeks in customer clinics to seek the right look for the Escort, its most important new car.

Months of trial and error produced a model seemingly designed by committee that attracted a universal yawn, which may explain its poor sales start.

Buyers are changing. The increasing popularity of classic cars and demand for ordinary saloons with the maximum number of stickers, GTi badges and go-faster stripes prove the case.

The Seventies were a quest for dependability after years of unreliable cars. The Eighties were a decade of revival from the effects of recession. The Nineties offer reliability, safety and technical advancement but they are crying out for some individuality, and it can be done.

The stylish and futuristic Vauxhall Calibra is a sign that a large manufacturer can design a product that expects volume sales yet stands out from the crowd.

Full marks, surprisingly, also go to the Japanese. They have swept the world with "copycat" designs, but recent evidence shows some remarkably original thinking. Toyota's egg-shaped multi-seater Previa or Mazda's MX-5, the little sports car that looks more British than the cars coming from factories here, show that style can go hand in hand with numbers. They are also cars, I am convinced, that drivers will remember a few decades from now when they wistfully think back on this decade of motoring.

My first memory was of my father's little Austin A30, the Mini of its day, and so small that it required rear seat passengers to be introduced at the very least, or better still married, and luggage to be no larger than two shopping bags and a Co-op carrier.

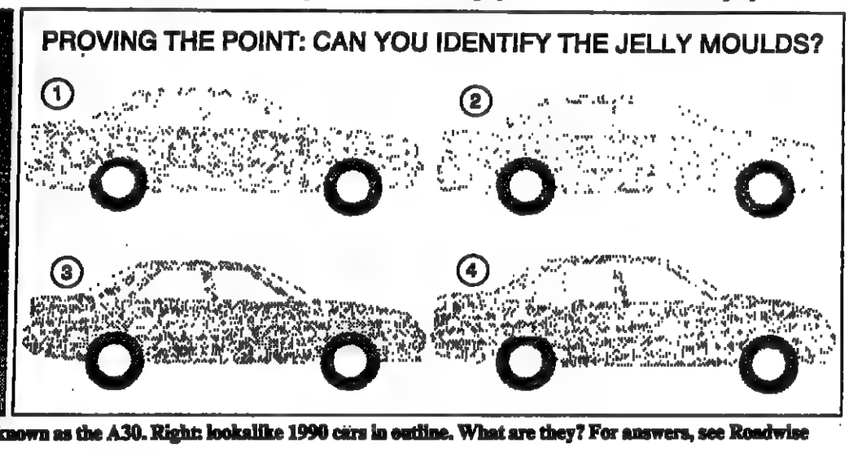
There were no flashing indicators on the A30 just little arrow-shaped trafficators that were supposed to pop up from behind the driver's door. They rarely worked or got stuck in the on position. That drab-grey box on wheels was hardly remarkable, yet I am amazed at the number of drivers whose eyes moisten as they too remember driving the A30, or another model from 30 or 40 years ago.

It is strange, too, that those cars that stir memories usually had the performance of an elderly tortoise, the comfort of a football grandstand and safety levels verging on the suicidal.

However, they looked so different and had wonderfully romantic names, such as Wolseley, Riley, Hillman, Humber and MG. They were also churned out by the wagonload: 1.3 million in 1960, more than Britain produces now.

Now we have swapped individuality for technology and style for conformity so that every new car is as forgettable as the one before. The car-makers have a chance to rediscover their sense of the style and imagination in the Nineties to brighten up drivers bored with endless jelly moulds.

PROVING THE POINT: CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE JELLY MOULDS?



Straight out of the Fifties but stylish: the Austin 7 (left) that became known as the A30. Right: lookalike 1990 cars in outline. What are they? For answers, see Roadwise

ROADWISE

A nice little gift number

STILL stumped over the last-minute Christmas present? You could buy father something useful, maybe an ice-scraper, or you could get mother a set of furry dice . . . then stand back and look at their forced smiles on Christmas morning. Or you could be a little more original and try these suggestions.

● Say it with a number-plate. Select numbers are still available from £200 to £2,500, all starting with this year's H prefix. Details: Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (0734 757575).

● A day on a racing circuit to develop driving skills. Companies such as Everyman Motor Racing offer one-day courses in models from Volkswagen Golf GTis to single-seat race cars. Everyman's courses cost between £74 and £132 at Mallory Park, Leicestershire. Most big circuits have tuition companies. Details: Everyman Motor Racing, 119 The Promenade, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (0242 251122).

● Enthusiasts might like the thrills of a classic car without leaving the armchair. Heritage Motoring Films has videos on famous marques, rallies and races. Details: Heritage Motoring Films, PO Box 44, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 7AE.

● Better still for those long journeys, try one of the BBC comedy tapes, ranging from *ITMA* to *Hancock's Half-Hour* and costing about £6.99 for four episodes. The best is a selection from *Round the Horne*. Here is a favourite line. Gypsy: "Cross my palm with silver and I'll reveal all." Horne: "Here's tuppence. Just take your coat off."

Euro rush-around

THE challenge for next year: visit all 12 European Community nations in the shortest possible time. The test to beat the record of 97 hours 43 minutes is set by Euro Auto Challenge. Winners are entered into the *Guinness Book of Records*. Cheats beware — all cars are fitted with a tachograph to check on speeds and distance. Information: Tony Stubbs, on 0252 837414.

Facts on fuel

CITROËN, encouraging the switch to diesel, has produced a free guide to the fuel. The pamphlet sets out why diesel is cleaner than petrol in some of the new engines available on the market and how fuel savings of about 30 per cent over petrol can be achieved. The guide is available from Citroën UK, Dept DE/201, Freepost, London N4 1BR.

Norwich leads

NORWICH Union sold £650 million worth of car insurance in 1989, £250 million more than its nearest competitor, according to the latest figures.

Sting for Scorpio

FORD has enlisted the help of Cosworth to raise performance in its Granada Scorpio executive car. Although it does not offer the blistering pace of its rival, the 175mph Vauxhall Lotus Carlton, Ford's Scorpio gets 195 brake horsepower from its 2.9-litre, 24-valve V6 Cosworth engine. The car's top speed is 140mph and it makes 0 to 60 in 8.8 seconds. The price, to be announced in February, will be above the current top-of-the-list £26,000.

Lada's fast lads

FORGET the Lada jokes if you encounter some burly ice hockey players next week. They come from the car factory that builds the Russian runabouts. Lada is sending its 25-strong ice hockey team from the factory at Togliatti for a series of games. The team leads the Soviet second division and is chasing promotion to the premier league. There is no problem as long as they do not listen in for a commentary on their games on a car radio like the one in the Lada 16-valve — eight valves in the car and eight in the radio. They deserve to win after jokes like that.

Proton a winner

PROTON, the Malaysian import finding favour in Britain, is best value for money, according to *What Car?* magazine. The 1.5SE won the title in a survey of more than 250 hatchbacks priced at less than £10,000. The Proton is £8,990 and has central locking, electric front windows and door mirrors and a radio cassette.

Were you right?

THE mystery cars are: 1 BMW 5-series, 2 Ford Granada, 3 Rover 800, 4 Vauxhall Carlton.

RUGBY UNION

Hunter a risk-taker happily in pursuit of an England cap

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IAN Hunter's dissertation on the design of orthotics and their application to sports injuries has not progressed much this week. The Northampton full back contrived to lock himself out of his flat in his glee at being selected for England's five-nations' championship training squad and then he had to face the media bombardment that greets new guests to the international table — particularly those who depart from the orthodox, as Hunter does on several fronts.

First, the Leicester Polytechnic student has been chosen as a wing rather than his club position; second, he is a risk-taker by nature though, he stresses, calculated risks; third, he has rejected, at the age of 22, considerable sums of money to turn professional.

Hunter is in his final year as an industrial-design student and his dissertation (on foot supports which assist sportsmen to run properly) is due to be typed up by the time England leave for Lanzarote on January 3.

It was a surprise that he was picked on the wing since the England selectors had not discussed the possibility with him, save as a passing query as to whether he had ever played there. He has, a score or so games, for Cumbria, for the North's under-21 side and on tour with the England Students in Namibia in July, though not with any great distinction.

"I can see why they have not chosen me at full back," Hunter said. "Jon Webb's been playing very well and has more experience. He's a safer bet. People think I'm completely insane and run everything. But rugby is about taking risks, calculated risks, when you know the opposition and their strengths. The point of playing is for pure enjoyment; people pay money to watch you play and you have to give them some enjoyment, too.

"I don't mind playing on the wing, but I feel disappointed for the other wings who have put so much effort in. I only hope I can show what I can do, but full back is the position I really want to keep."

Hunter, 6ft 2in and 14½-stone, cites David Campese as a role model, both for the Australian's ability to play international rugby on the wing and at full back, and for his lines of running, his use of different angles of attack. Hunter spent his first ten years in New Zealand before his family moved back to England and to Grasmere in the Lake District. He competes in the summer for the local athletic club, Border Harriers, sprinting, long jumping, throwing the javelin, activities which suggest to Barrie Corless, Northampton's rugby administrator, that he will have no problem coping with the pace required on the wing.

"He is intensely dedicated to improving himself," Corless said. "He will turn up early at training nights and stay on late, working on little aspects of his game."

Widnes showed an interest in him after their scouts had seen Hunter play for the North against Lancashire early this season. "If I had a wife and family it might have been different," Hunter said. "I hope my degree will help me to a good job, but once you become a professional you have no choice. It's no longer a sport, it's a livelihood."

Davies out of squad to take on England

By OWEN JENKINS

PHIL Davies, the Llanelli forward and captain, has been omitted from the Welsh national squad. A personality clash with Ron Waldron, the Wales team manager, led to Davies retiring from international rugby earlier this season, after being selected as a replacement against the Barbarians, and although he later changed his mind, he has recently suffered a dreadful lack of form.

The latest step is said by Waldron to be because of "personal and family problems". He said: "Phil has been under an awful lot of pressure and has missed four squad sessions. We have tried to relate to the pressures he has been under and it is in our and his interests that he is no longer part of the squad for the time being. He is not under consideration for the England game."

The Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) has concluded its consideration of the South African affair. Denis Evans, the secretary of the WRU, met clubs from District G of the union, who dropped their demands for a special general meeting after the enquiry into the involvement of players and administrators in the South African centenary celebrations.

The WRU has confirmed that Jeff Young will be its first technical director. Young, a wing commander in the RAF who played hooker for Wales in the Sixties and Seventies, will not take up full office until March 1, 1992, but will assume duties on a consultancy and part-time basis a year earlier.

Young said: "I still have military responsibilities and it is a sensitive time with the present situation in the Gulf. But in the next year I will be giving up my weekends and off-duty hours to be on site in Wales."

Evans said: "We are completing the review of all our coaching courses and developing a different methodology. If you take a look at the number of coaches who have been through our courses and on to coach first-class clubs — it doesn't reflect very well on the Union."

An assistant technical director will also be appointed in keeping with the Union's intention of developing a strategy which will encompass all stages of the game.

David Joseph, the Wales B prop, who was dropped from the Neath squad last week, has joined Swansea.

Oxford's strength debatable

By DAVID HANDS

OXFORD University, winners against Cambridge at Twickenham last week, bring a donnish air to the Toulouse centenary celebrations today.

The Dark Blues play Toulouse University as part of the feast of rugby which incorporates debate off the field as well as contests on it. The games on Wednesday evening, for example, involving the host club and Bath, Queensland and Fiji, were followed last night by a coaching conference headed by Pierre Villepreux.

Eleven of Oxford's Twickenham XV are able to travel but the four absentees are all tight forwards, which will leave the university weakened in one of their areas of greatest strength. None of the front row will be in France, though at least Errol Norwitz, the hooker, who was found to be suffering from pneumonia last week, has left hospital.

Oxford have invited assistance from Oxford Polytechnic and Oxford Town, as well as calling up Ian Jackson, the Greyhounds lock and a replacement at Twickenham. In addition, Finbarr Griffin, the Cambridge prop, has reinforced them.

Meanwhile, in the main event, the Masters tournament, Bath must rest content with a place in tomorrow's play-off for third place — against the Fijian national side. It was no surprise that Bath, lacking eight internationals, should have lost 23-6 to Toulouse. Tim Reeman kicked two penalties, but the French club scored tries, by Cazalbou (two), Bonneval and Soula, and Marfaing kicked two conversions and a penalty.

The final will be between Toulouse and Queensland, who beat Fiji 22-12 after trailing at half-time.

● Lane Penn, the Wairarapa-Bush coach who has been a New Zealand selector for the last three years, has been appointed assistant to Alex Wyllie by the New Zealand Rugby Union.

Penn has been given the role ahead of John Hart, the former Auckland coach, who remains a selector. Hart will continue with the New Zealand Colts over the coming year and will prepare the senior XVs to play Romania and the USSR in non-cap matches.

Penn, who took New Zealand's development squad on tour to Canada during the autumn, will form part of the All Blacks coaching team for games against Argentina, Australia and the 1991 World Cup.

WRU must follow up the good work

GERALD DAVIES

THIS has been a good week for the Welsh Rugby Union. When, I wonder, was that last said of an organisation who, when spying a banana skin on its daily round, could not resist rubbing its hands with glee and aiming straight for it. Very few had come to see the joke.

Another booby trap was laid last Saturday when Jonathan Humphries, of Cardiff, was sent off. The television cameras verified the suspicion that not only had the officials got the wrong man but raised the question whether, in the melée, there was a sending-off offence committed at all.

Instead of prevaricating, as has been their wont, and allowing speculation to mount, the WRU admitted that there had been a clear case of mistaken identity. There is strength in coming clean.

There was relief, too, in conceding to the evidence of the TV cameras instead of churning out the old chestnut of "trial by television". In this instance, what the pictures evinced was admissible and was positively to the game's good.

However, the occasion should not pass by without further consideration. The Welsh Rugby Union should undertake an immediate and thorough review of the manner in which the officials are controlling Heineken League matches.

There are areas of concern which have caused widespread disquiet among the club administrators, coaches, players and other interested bystanders.

The WRU needs to look at the way the system operates in having two qualified referees acting as touch judges to assist the referee. The touch judges have the power to intervene in the event of foul play, as in international matches, and on their recommendation the referee can send a player off. This has happened on four occasions out of the 22 dismissals to date.

At least twice the expulsion of the player has been thought precipitate and lacking judgment. There is the underlying feeling, which has been gathering momentum, that there has been a miscarriage of justice in these and other instances, too. John Humphries has now been vindicated.

Mike Griffiths, the Cardiff prop, against Pontypridd, was also sent off on the advice of the touch judge. This was, apparently, for stamping on a player. It turned out, however, that Griffiths in running into a ruck stamped on his own unlucky team-mate. In the disciplinary committee meeting when this evidence was produced it was argued, from whose standpoint, I am not sure, that Griffiths'sintention was to stamp on an opponent but, in the event, he made a mistake. A six-week suspension was imposed but not for stamping, however; rather for over-vigorous play. The reasoning here is a mite suspect.

Whatever official answer may be given in defence of this trend, the perception remains of referees being heavy-handed. There lies the hand of the hanging judge with very few redeeming qualities of mercy.

When Mark Thomas, of Aberavon was sent off against Newport, the latter club came out in support of the player much in the same way as Bridgend were supportive of Picton, of Abertillery, when he was sent off.

As was outlined in these columns last Friday, the inordinate number of dismissals misrepresents the improved discipline in club games, in the main, because of the presence of "the three pairs of eyes".

A fear of rucking prevails. On Saturday, John Scott, the Cardiff team manager, and his coach, Alan Phillips, confirmed that their players may soon be unwilling to ruck the ball at all. The chances of being sent off are too high.

The Cardiff chairman, Alun Priday, said that before too long the only game that will be tolerated will be "touch rugby". "It is all going badly out of hand," he said. "A bad mistake has cost Cardiff two points. What if demotion or relegation depended on last Saturday's result?"

The WRU and the referees need to listen closely to the constructive criticism being made. Otherwise a laudable concept could easily fall into disrepute.

The difficulty has arisen over the three areas of incident, all coming under Law 26 (Foul Play). First, kicking, trampling, raking, stamping. Second, what comes under dangerous tackling — high, late, early, forearm and elbow. Third, head-butting. These will be dealt with by dismissal.

None of these actions can be thought acceptable in any game of rugby football. But whilst there is no ambiguity about head-butting nor, I would have thought, about the intention behind kicking a player, there are, however, degrees of interpretation, like it or not, about raking, trampling and, indeed, stamping.

When, for instance, are these actions taken in the good name of rucking? When not? Why is New Zealand's approach thought to be so correct — which by and large it is, but not always — whilst an occasion for immediate expulsion in these islands? Why are All Blacks — a picture of pristine innocence, it seems — allowed to remain on the field when they have clearly committed transgressions of which a very dim view is taken in our domestic game? They must be laughing in their whiskers at the muddle.

There remains the matter, you will accept, of interpretation. It would be nice to think that there will be uniformity come the World Cup.

Liley just ahead on points

By DAVID HANDS

JOHN Liley looks to have the easier task in becoming the first player in the English first-class game to pass 200 points this season. The Leicester full back plays against Coventry on Saturday, requiring only two points to reach the target while his nearest rival, Andy Green, the Exeter stand-off — whose club faces Gloucester this weekend — stands on 196.

Liley's 13 points for Yorkshire in the 57-4 defeat of North Midlands took him back to the top of the Unisys points chart. Simon Blake managed 20 points for Redruth against Penryn to join Martin Strett in third place on 168.

The divisional championship was kind to Rob Andrew, who totalled 44 points in London's three matches. This moved him briskly up to 150 points, reflecting both his greater consistency with the boot and greater opportunity for Wasps, his club, as well as his division. It is, of course, easy to forget that Andrew has scored 129 points for England though he has only been intermittently the first-choice goalkicker.

David Cooke, the West Hartlepool wing, moves out on his own as the country's leading try-scorer. One for Durham against Leicestershire takes him to 19, ahead of Eddie Saunders, of Rugby, whose opportunities for the Midlands against the North on Saturday were limited.

Leading points scorers

	Pts	T	C	PDG	
J Liley (Leicester)	196	2	29	42	2
A Green (Exeter)	190	0	22	29	3
S Blake (Redruth)	168	0	23	30	—
M Strett (Orrell)	160	3	4[illegible]	20	—
R Ashworth (Harlequins)	154	3	25	22	2
S Hodgkinson (Notts)	184	3	25	34	—
J Graves (Rosslyn P)	157	7	15	33	—
M Rodgers (Sheffield)	156	10	17	28	1
D Pears (Harlequins)	154	1	27	30	2
R Andrew (Wasps)	150	2	23	32	—

Leading try scorers

D Cooke (West Hartlepool)	19
E Saunders (Rugby)	18
J Walker (Otley)	17
D Cottrell (Clifton)	16
G Mauvillo (Otley)	16
D Morris (Orrell)	16

Leading drop kickers

A Rimmer (Broughton Pk)	11
R Mills (Walsall)	9

Compiled by Results Unlimited

Triumphant Trinity boys chosen

SCHOOLS RUGBY By MICHAEL STEVENSON

TRINITY, Croydon, who won all 16 matches, scoring 485 to 46 points conceded, have been rewarded with the selection of four players for the Surrey 18 Group: John Seaton (prop), Alex Codling (lock), Mark Butterworth (stand-off half) and Shane Roiser (full back).

Trent have lost three matches, each by a single score: v Oakham (6-10), Warwick (10-12) and Denstone (3-6). They have won ten games with 214 points scored and 91 against. Their wins against Rugby (16-3) and Uppingham (10-9) were gratifying but their best performance was against Worksop (24-7). The Stephen Roberts benefit match against King Edward's, Bath, which Trent won 21-4, raised £2,000.

Merchant Taylors', Crosby stumbled in their second match, losing 3-32 to Rossall but have won all their other 12 matches. No wins will have given greater pleasure than those against Arnold (21-3), Birkenhead (16-0) and Merchant Taylors', Northwood (12-8).

Monmouth have enjoyed a much-improved season, winning ten from 16 games and scoring 263 points to 169 conceded. The highlight was their 16-10 victory against Ampleforth, their first win in the fixture since 1985.

Ellesmere, Midlands' finalists in the *Daily Mail* Cup, have seven wins, a draw and four narrow defeats from 12 matches, scoring 174 points, while conceding 79.

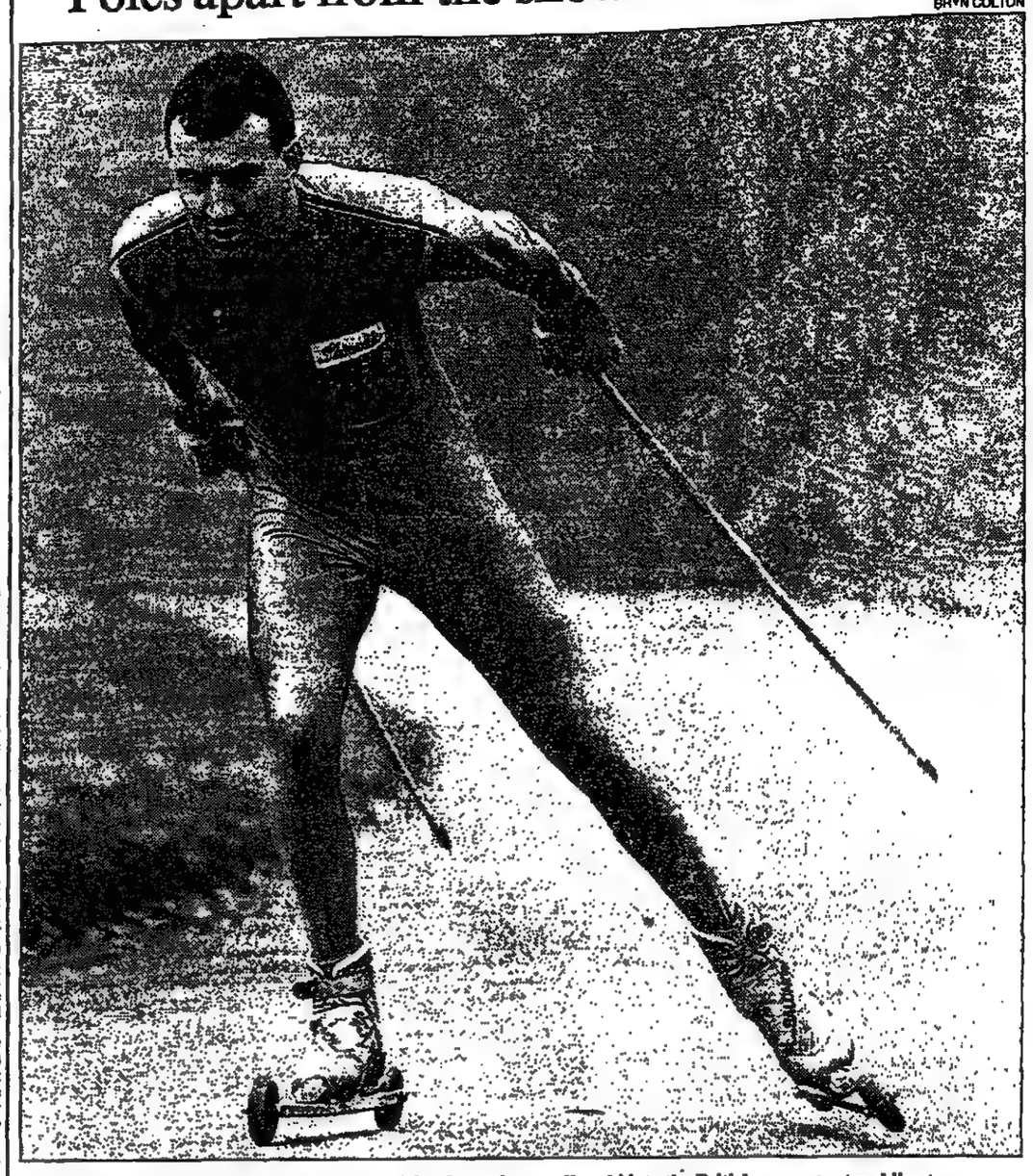
In 1983, Eton fielded ten rugby teams. They now have 18 and, despite an indifferent start with four defeats to Millfield (4-28), Epsom (0-18), St Edward's, Oxford (0-9) and Wellington College (3-30), they won five of the last seven matches, including victories against Marlborough and Royal Belfast AI. Henry Price and Obaro Ibru in the backs and the full back, Simon Prideaux, have been outstanding.

Woodhouse Grove lost only to King Edward's, Lytham (3-9). Their tiny pack has coped well with consistent weight concession. In the backs, Stephen Lee, the captain, and the centres, Jolyon Dobbs and Russ Webster, have played splendidly.

St Lawrence, Ramsgate have enjoyed their best season for nine years. They won eight, lost two and drew two matches, scoring 207 to 65 points conceded. They have been particularly well served by the centre, Brett Everett, Olalu Odimayo, on the wing, and their captain and stand-off half, Grant Morris, who scored 71 points.

Poles apart from the snow of the ski slopes

BRYN COLTON



Propelling himself to a snowless peak: Richardson tries to roller-ski into the British cross-country skiing team

A man not quite in his element

By SALLY JONES

EVERY day this week, Mark Richardson will rouse himself around dawn to put in two hours of training which he hopes could give him the chance of a place in the British cross-country ski team.

Unlike his rivals, his training takes place not on the crisp, undulating snow of Norway or Canada but round the damp, spirit-level flat roads near Sandringham in Norfolk aboard a pair of roller skis. These are 2½ft-long aluminium planks mounted on polyurethane wheels but the roller skier's powerful gliding action, propelled by long poles, is almost identical to that of cross-country skiing and forms the most effective training method for skiers unable to practise on the snow.

Richardson, aged 28, a dynamo with seemingly boundless energy, is frustrated because, despite outstanding results as a roller skier — he was British champion in 1988 and runner-up the following season — he has so far failed to gain recognition as a potential star of cross-country skiing.

The sport is dominated by the services, for whom months of winter training in Norway and Canada are normal. Richardson, a former climber who discovered cross-country skiing during an expedition to Chamonix several years ago, feels that it is a closed shop to all but the most well-heeled of civilians.

"Finance is my main problem because the training is demanding, expensive and time-consuming. I had no technique when I started but I could still do pretty well because of my aggressive attitude and the sheer effort I put in, particularly on the longer 30- and 50-kilometre courses over all sorts of terrain on the more spread-out, less technically demanding circuits. I'm lucky with my power-weight ratio, too, as I'm only 11½ stones, but I've got very strong legs for my size."

After two seasons in France, taking part in local races fitted in between low-paid part-time work, lack of money has forced him to return home to his parents near King's Lynn and a repetitive day-time job in a factory. Even so, he has been putting in up to six hours a day running, weight-training and biking as well as roller-skiing to try to keep up his fitness in case he gets the chance of competition on snow.

"I just haven't had the time on the snow or the specialist coaching to turn in the sort of times I'd need, or the opportunity to compete against the top Brits. No one in charge of the squad has shown the slightest interest in helping or encouraging me but I know I've got the capability because if I can do it on the roads, I can do it on the snow."

John Leaning, chairman of the Nordic committee of the British Ski Federation, is adamant that Richardson must first prove himself on snow. "He's got to produce the goods at the British championships. I can't just spend money on a top roller skier, even though he's probably got the 'engine', the physiology, to have a lot of endurance. At 28, he's too old for the development squad of 16-21-year-olds and he really should have come through the regional system which the English Ski Council operates. If he comes to the British championships and gets in the top 20, then we'd be interested."

Richardson has been invited to train with the English Development Group after Christmas, a week's training with a group of teenage newcomers that he hopes will give him a realistic chance of a reasonable showing at the British championships at Zweisel in Germany at the end of next month against servicemen who have been training hard on the snow for several weeks now. His father has scraped together the money to enable him to stay out snow-training on the run-up to Zweisel.

Back home in Norfolk, Richardson has been working hard to prepare and to try to raise money and admits he could paper the walls of his bedroom with rejections from firms he has approached to sponsor him. "Lack of finance and snow-time are the only things holding me back," he said.

HOCKEY

Sutton looking for a solution

By ALIX RAMSAY

FIRST Personnel Sutton Coldfield have one last chance to prove themselves before the Typhoo women's national league picks up again in January. Tomorrow, they travel to Hightown to play the last of the rearranged fixtures that will bring them up to date with the rest of the league.

The division is so tight that a win could lift them from third-from-bottom to third place, but defeat could leave them struggling against relegation for the rest of the season.

To make matters worse, they will be without Jackie Hill, their versatile left-side forward and midfield player, whose recovery from an injury sustained in the county championships may not be complete until well into the new year. Her place is being filled by Caroline Brewer.

After their last performance against Leicester, the team is confident of progress but its problem has always been putting it together on the day. Against Leicester, Sutton did well in the first half but tired in the second and could claim only a 1-1 draw.

Being able to call upon the likes of Jane Swinnerton, who was the top goalscorer in the Midlands area in the County Trophy, Lisa Bayliss and Jane Sixsmith who both scored freely in the recent Great Britain tour of New Zealand and England tour of Spain, Sutton should be better placed in the league. Quite why the players cannot reproduce their individual form for their club remains a mystery.

Sutton have tried to improve their fitness and stamina by playing against men's league sides. Unfortunately, that move backfired. The men's teams were so strong, Sutton were always on the defensive and unable to get their forwards into the game.

The club's chances of making up lost ground have been greatly diminished by the fact that several of their key players have not had a chance to train with the team because they have been away on international duty.

Sutton's one consolation is that a number of players have been involved in the recent County Trophy and are, therefore, fighting fit. Staffordshire fielded four Sutton players to take on Lancashire, boasting nine Hightown names, in the preliminary rounds.

For much of that match, Staffordshire held the champions and Sutton will be hoping their players can reproduce that form tomorrow if they are to give Hightown a run for their money.

Indoor event will assist England's preparation

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

ENGLAND are to play in an international indoor club tournament at Arminen, Austria, from January 4 to 6 in preparation for the European Cup at Birmingham from February 22 to 24.

The group opposition for England at Arminen will be provided by the Spanish national side, Rot-Weiss Munich and Stadtauswahl, of Vienna. The teams in the other group are: NM Frankreich, Stuttgart Kickers, Stadtauswahl Leipzig and Arminen Vienna.

For various reasons, five players, Faulkner, Nick Thompson, Grimley, Hill and Halls, have dropped out of England's original party of 19 selected for preliminary training in Cologne from December 27 to 30.

Mark Riley, McGuire, Roberts and Barker, all with considerable indoor experience, come in. The team for the Arminen tournament will be selected immediately after the training at Cologne.

ENGLAND SQUAD: J Clark (Slough), M Riley (Teddington), P McGuire (Teddington), J Roberts (Stourport), N Barker (Old Loughtonians), A Forshaw (Welton), R Garcia (Havant), A Halliday (St Albans), I Jennings (Old Loughtonians), S Kerly (Southgate), J Leslie (Teddington), J Lee (East Grinstead), R Leman (East Grinstead), P Nall (Havant), K Stamp (Welton), S Taylor (Stourport), D Williams (Havant), D Walker (St Albans).

● The German Hockey Federation has confirmed that the thirteenth Champions Trophy outdoor tournament will be held in Berlin early next September. There had been doubts about the feasibility of staging the event in Berlin and suggestions had been made to switch it either to Frankfurt or Mulheim.

BASKETBALL

Winning respect in defeat

By NICHOLAS HARLING

FOR a man not normally given to contemplating defeat, or seeing any good from it, Kevin Cadle was in a surprisingly phlegmatic frame of mind. Not even the performance of the officials, who received plenty of criticism elsewhere, could incur the wrath of the Kingston coach after his squad had roused the Crystal Palace crowd from its initial indifference to come gallingly close to defeating the European champions, Pop 84 Split.

Although Kingston have lost the first two ties of the 14 they must play in the European Champion Cup's final pool of eight, Cadle saw enough in his club's 89-87 defeat in overtime on Wednesday to believe they can benefit from their mistakes.

"The first thing we have to learn is that basketball is a 40-minute game," Cadle said, referring to the premature celebrations of his players before Alton Byrd had gone to the free-throw line to extend Kingston's lead to three points with 15 seconds left. A subsequent slip by Byrd gave Perasovic the room to tie up the game with three seconds remaining. "We couldn't allow for something like that to happen," Cadle said, "but what it made the players realise was that they should not have been jumping up and down, thinking they had the game won."

It was after Perasovic had shot the decisive basket 13 seconds from the end of overtime that Cadle was able to reflect on Kingston's other profits. "Lorenzo Duncan is a gain, a definite gain," he said of his club's new American acquisition. "He's a good tough player. His performance was exceptional." Duncan's agility had brought him 25 points, only three less than Perasovic and Toni Kukoc, Split's joint match-winning marskman.

Kingston, who have home Carlsberg League fixtures against Derby tomorrow and Manchester on December 28 before their next European excursion to Tel Aviv on January 3, have also, according to Cadle, enhanced the image of the domestic game. Few would argue with his assessment: "From now on English teams will have some kind of respect."

TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated

FOOTBALL

Barclays League
Second division
Oldham v Plymouth
Portsmouth v Ipswich (7.45)

Third division
Tranmere v Birmingham

Fourth division
Halifax v Rochdale
Northampton v Cardiff
Peterborough v Scarborough
Stockport v Doncaster
Walsall v Wrexham
York v Aldershot

LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Bohemians v Athlone.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCE: First division: Hull KR v Leeds; Salford v Leigh; Widnes v Warrington. Second division: Doncaster v Bramley.

SPORT ON TV

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Screensport 07.00-09.00, C4 17.30-18.00; Red 42, BBB 18.30-19.00; National Football League.
BASEBALL: Eurosport 07.30-08.30: Major League from the United States.
BASKETBALL: Screensport 18.00-20.00.
BILLIARDS: Eurosport 00.30-01.30 (repeat): World Cup.
BOXING: Screensport 12.00-14.00: Professional event, BBB 14.00-16.00.
CYCLING: Eurosport 16.00-16.30: Mountain bike championships.
EQUESTRIANISM: Eurosport 17.00-18.00: Show jumping from Olympia.
EUROSPORT NEWS: Eurosport 18.30-19.00 and 23.00-23.30.
FOOTBALL: Screensport 16.00-17.00: Argentine league.
GOLF: Eurosport 22.30-24.00: World Cup.
BBB 20.00-22.00 and 00.30-02.30: Interview with Nick Faldo.
ICE HOCKEY: Screensport 14.00-16.00 and 22.30-00.30: NHL.
ICE SKATING: Eurosport 09.00-11.00.
MOTOR SPORT: BBB 19.00-19.30.
JET SKI RACING: Eurosport 22.30-23.00.
LUGE: Eurosport 20.00-21.00: World Cup.
RACING: Screensport 10.00-11.00: Seasonal review. BBB 13.30-14.00 and 23.30-midnight: Racing news.
RUGBY UNION: Screensport 21.00-22.30.
SKIING: Eurosport 11.00-12.00, 19.00-20.00 and 21.00-22.30: World Cup.
SNOOKER: Eurosport 12.30-13.30 and 23.30-00.30: Dubai Classic.
SPORTSDESK: BBB 13.25, 18.00, 19.30, 22.00 and midnight.
SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING: Eurosport 16.30-17.00: European championships.
TENNIS: Eurosport 14.30-16.00: Europe v United States. BBB 16.00-17.00.
VOLLEYBALL: Screensport 11.00-12.00: Soviet Union v France.
YACHTING: Screensport 17.00-18.00.

Kameo Style poised to gain first success over fences

By Mandarin

Mellor: likely winners at Ludlow and Hexham

KAMEO Style, a useful *handicap* hurdler last season, can record his first success over fences in the Tanners Champagne Novices' Handicap Chase at Ludlow this afternoon. He is my nap.

That victory looked on the cards over this course and distance 16 days ago when the seven-year-old was going well upsides the eventual winner, Tinas Lad, only to land too steeply at the third last and come down.

Snooker Table, the eventual fourth in that race, was comfortably held at the time and, even on 6lb more favourable terms, should not get the better of Kameo Style.

Kameo Style's hurdling form left no doubt as to his ability. Apart from four wins, he put up a fine effort in defeat when second, attempting to concede almost two stone, to the smart Coworth Park over this trip at Sandown Park.

Majestic Bruno was a tailed off last of three finishers in the Taunton race won by Mandraki Shuffle last month and would have to improve considerably on that to take a hand here, which leaves the top weight, Thursby, as the probable danger.

He was a fair second to Hilarion at Windsor on his reappearance but two of his three runs last term were over an extended three miles, which suggests his future may lie over a longer distance.

The Tanners Wines Novices' Chase is an interesting contest. Casino Magic's connections will be hoping to avoid a repetition of his last run, also at Ludlow, when he was left 20 lengths at the start but still finished half a length second to Tinas Lad.

However, even granted a level break, he may be hard pressed to cope with Senator Of Rome. Toby Balding's charge was a good 1½-length second to the useful Southerly Buster at Newbury last month and followed up with a third to *Sparkling Flame* in a valuable race at Lingfield.

St Louis Blues can maintain John Edwards's excellent form in the Tanners Burgundy Handicap Hurdle. He won more easily than the two-length verdict over Ockley might suggest at Huntingdon last time and, although this is a stiffer task, he may have further scope for improvement.

So Proud, also a winner on that Huntingdon card, reappears in the Tanners Manzanilla Novices' Hurdle and should be up to conceding weight to the opposition. He made an eye-catching hurdling debut, belying his inexperience to beat Scole by eight lengths, and it will be disappointing if he does not progress.

Stan Mellor, the trainer of So Proud, can complete a long-range double with *Rositary* in the Tattersalls Mares Only Novices' Chase at Hexham. Rositary won at Folkestone just three days ago and can justify the journey at the expense of Candlebright, whose jumping still leaves something to be desired.

Whatever the fate of Candlebright, trainer Gordon Richards should enjoy a successful afternoon with **Montpelier Lad** (1.15), **Manhattan Chase** (1.45) and **Impale** (3.15).

Far Over Struy appeals as the best bet at Uttoxeter in the St Modwen Novices' Hurdle. Despite being just in need of the race, he was a promising third, running on, to Cheerful Times and Shamana at Warwick last month. With that experience behind him he can overcome Wincanton winner Beresfords Girl.

The Heathyards Novices' Chase promises an intriguing meeting between Stirrup Cup, a potentially high-class novice hurdler last season before going lame, and Formula One. I just prefer **Formula One**, third to Royal Athlete and Carrick Hill Lad in a valuable novice chase at Ayr on his final start of last season.

Chepstow rain is welcomed

By Christopher Goulding

COOL Ground, runner-up to Bonanza Boy 12 months ago, was the subject of strong support for tomorrow's Coral Welsh National at Chepstow after rain fell at the Gwent course yesterday.

The eight-year-old is now a 5-1 chance from 6-1 with the *sponsors*, who *retain* Carrick Hill Lad as firm favourite at 11-4.

Rodger Farrant, clerk of the course at Chepstow, said: "We have had four hours of continual rain and the ground is good with good to soft patches. More rain is forecast for tomorrow."

Reg Akehurst, Cool Ground's trainer, could not have been more pleased at the weather news. "I'm delighted," Akehurst said. "We're expecting him to run a big race and Luke Harvey will have the ride."

Joan Richards, wife of Gordon, also welcomed news of the rain and added: "We will send Carrick Hill Lad down tomorrow. He is very well."

Bonanza Boy, who will be attempting to win the race for a third time for Martin Pipe, will also relish yesterday's rain. A stable spokeswoman confirmed: "He is fit and well and on target for Saturday's race."

A decision concerning Yahoo's participation will not be made until today.

BETTING: Corals: 11-4 Carrick Hill Lad, 4-1 Boracova, 5-1 Cool Ground, 9-1 Bonanza Boy, 14-1 bar.

Incentives to keep older fillies racing

By Phil McLennan

PATTERN changes aimed specifically at keeping the best fillies in training after their three-year-old careers are to be made next year.

The Lancashire Oaks, the Aston Upthorpe Yorkshire Oaks and the A F Budge Park Hill Stakes are all to be opened to older fillies for the first time in 1991.

Explaining the move, John Smee, secretary to the Jockey Club's pattern race committee, said yesterday: "These changes have been made in response to discussions with owners and trainers, who felt there was insufficient incentive to keep top-class older fillies in training. There is no intention to open up the equivalent colts' races in the same way."

Of the three races in question, the Yorkshire Oaks will retain its group one status and the Lancashire Oaks will remain a group three race but the Park Hill will be downgraded from group two to group three in view of disappointing fields in recent years.

No decision has yet been reached regarding a possible reduction in distance of the Ascot Gold Cup but the group three Goodwood Cup is to be cut from 2⅝ miles (two miles five furlongs before this season) to two miles as part of the Jockey Club's reorganisation of the programme for stayers.

The Queen's Vase, run over two miles at Royal Ascot, has been upgraded from listed to group three status.

Reveley continues in form with 78-1 treble

MARY Reveley, the Saltburn trainer, saddled her second Kelso treble of the season yesterday with Cowgate Fountain, Snowfire Chap and Norval but the Scottish track will never be her favourite venue.

The 78-1 three-timer, each well ridden by stable jockey, Peter Niven, continued the fine run of the Cleveland trainer, who also saddled the first four-timer of her career at Sedgefield in October.

However, Mrs Reveley still vividly recalls the death of her promising mare, Brigaroni, at Kelso three seasons ago. "She was one of my favourites and it will take me a long time to get rid of that memory," she said.

Norval, who completed the treble in the St Boswells Handicap Chase, gave Niven his toughest ride of the three, the former Gordon Richards-trained eight-year-old jumping right early on and looking anything but the likely winner.

Niven's patience began to pay off as they picked off their rivals one by one, eventually beating Interim by four lengths.

The Saltburn pair earlier struck with Cowgate Fountain in the Mares Only Novices' Hurdle Qualifier and Snowfire Chap in the Elibank Handicap Chase.

Snowfire Chap, twice a winner already this season, defied a 4lb penalty and displayed his stamina by outstaying Into The Mystic.

Morshead resigns at Kelso

SAM Morshead, the former National Hunt jockey, has resigned as clerk of the course at Kelso, the Scottish course which is the subject of a Jockey Club enquiry.

Morshead yesterday declined to elaborate on his reasons but said his resignation had been prompted by the racecourse executive's use of "prohibited materials" on the course without his knowledge.

His announcement came shortly after racing began at the track yesterday. Morshead issued a statement which said: "Regrettably, I feel unable to continue as clerk of the course at Kelso. I cannot confidently continue to carry out my duties within the bounds of my Jockey Club licence under the existing executive."

When pressed for a fuller explanation, he added: "Materials were used on the course at the last meeting and indeed previously which were unknown to me. They were not within Jockey Club instructions and a disciplinary enquiry is now pending. I don't want to say anymore."

David McHarg, who works with Morshead on the Scottish circuit and is a director at Kelso, was *similarly reluctant to give* additional information.

He said: "As far as the directors are concerned, we were very reluctant to accept Sam's resignation. But the matter is the subject of an enquiry and we do not wish to make further comment."

Morshead, who was due to be in charge at the Scottish course until the end of the season, will retain his other clerk posts at Perth, Edinburgh and Ayr (National Hunt).

LUDLOW

Selections

By Mandarin

12.30 So Proud.
1.00 Market Leader.
1.30 St Louis Blues.
2.00 Senator Of Rome.
2.30 Patrick James.
3.00 **KAMEO STYLE** (nap).
3.30 Running Kiss.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 SO PROUD.

Going: firm (good to firm in places)

12.30 TANNERS MANZANILLA NOVICES HURDLE (£1,842: 2m) (12 runners)

1 31 SO PROUD 16 (D,F) (Lord Wolverton) S Mellor 5-11-4 M Perrett ● 99
2 55 BLAKES SECRET 37 (J Burley) P Hobbs 4-10-12 Mr D Clifford (7) 87
3 0-4RP00 HELMAR 14 (Mrs J Green) F Jordan 4-10-12 J Lodder (3) 72
4 U LAKENHEATHER 21 (Mrs H Richards) K White 4-10-12 A Charlton —
5 00/6-6 MISTY LEA 7 (L Oxenham) J Bradley 5-10-12 D Tegg —
6 500 OCTOBER WINDS 14 (R Hamilton) D Barons 4-10-12 R Greene (7) 71
7 00-P PRINCE VINCENNE 27 (A Johnson) M Robinson 5-10-12 I Lawrence —
8 24-0 SHUTTLE HILL 49 (C Murphy) T Tate 5-10-12 NON-RUNNER —
9 0 TASMAN OAK 69 (A Stennett) Mrs S Oliver 4-10-12 R Hyett —
10 0-0 CEETEEBEE 14 (C Brinson) O O'Neill 5-10-7 V Slattery (7) —
11 0-0 CELTIC WATERS 32 (P Petrie) S Christian 5-10-7 A Mulholland —
12 0-P COOMBESBURY LANE 32 (N McGilligan) P Jones 4-10-7 W Humphreys —

BETTING: 8-11 So Proud, 9-2 Blakes Secret, 7-1 Misty Lea, 10-1 October Winds, 12-1 Celtic Waters, 14-1 others.

1989: RUN TO FORM 4-10-12 M Bowlby (5-2 fav) Mrs J Pitman 17 ran

FORM FOCUS SO PROUD impressed when beating Scole by 8l on hurdling debut at Huntingdon (2m 100yd, good to firm). Likely to improve.

BLAKES SECRET moderate 15¾l 5th to Wessex Warrior at Kempton (2m, good to firm); earlier 16¾l 6th to Gymcrak Dawn in Bangor (1m 4f, good) National Hunt flat race with TASMAN OAK and OCTOBER WINDS behind. HELMAR 28l 7th to Norman Conqueror at Devon (2m 1f, good to firm) with CEETEEBEE 10l 8th and OCTOBER WINDS 2l 9th.

MISTY LEA staying-on 26 12l 6th to Susan Henchard at Hereford (2m, good). SHUTTLE HILL, placed in National Hunt Flat races, 7th to Better Times Ahead on hurdling debut at Wetherby (2m, good).

Selection: SO PROUD (nap)

1.0 TANNERS CLARET HANDICAP CHASE (£3,335: 2m) (2 runners)

1 21311-1 MARKET LEADER 16 (CD,F,G) (E Riello) R Lee 10-11-10 W McFarland ● 99
2 22/6U22 TRIBUTE TO YOUTH 16 (CD,BF,G) (R Maryan Green) D Nicholson 8-10-0 R Dunwoody 98

Long handicap: Tribute To Youth 9-7.

BETTING: 8-13 Market Leader, 11-8 Tribute To Youth.

1989: MARKET LEADER 9-11-3 B Dowling (10-1) R Lee 5 ran

FORM FOCUS MARKET LEADER progressed steadily last term and again put up an improved performance when beating Prideaux Boy by 4l over course and distance on reappearance (good to firm).

TRIBUTE TO YOUTH, a hurdling winner over this course and distance (good), has run two fair races over fences lately; head 2nd to Infinity Rules at Huntingdon (2m 200yd, good).

Selection: MARKET LEADER

1.30 TANNERS BURGUNDY HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,574: 2m) (7 runners)

1 316/30- BISHOPSTONE 404 (D,G) (F Jordan) F Jordan 7-12-0 B Dowling —
2 3432-02 CELTIC BOB 14 (CD,F,G) (O O'Neill) O O'Neill 10-11-4 V Slattery (7) 95
3 2221-46 FIRST CRACK 24 (D,BF,F,G) (D Pugh) F Jordan 5-11-1 J Lodder (3) ● 99
4 1102F4 DEB'S BALL 9 (D,F) (Miss M Faragher) D Moffatt 4-11-1 D J Moffatt (7) 98
5 2-52131 ST LOUIS BLUES 16 (CD,F) (H White) J Edwards 5-10-6 Mr A Farrant (7) 93
6 342U32 BICKERMAN 45 (CD,F,G) (B Dowling) J Spearing 7-10-5 L Ashworth (7) 95
7 00005-5 CREAM AND GREEN 22 (Andes Ltd) K White 6-10-0 A Charlton 79

Long handicap: Cream And Green 8-9.

BETTING: 11-4 St Louis Blues, 7-2 Bickerman, 4-1 First Crack, 5-1 Celtic Bob, 7-1 Bishopstone, 8-1 Deb's Ball, 20-1 Cream And Green.

1989: RUSTY ROC 8-11-6 W Knox (10-1) M Davies 20 ran

FORM FOCUS BISHOPSTONE 24l 3rd to Bobalina on penultimate start at Down Royal (2m, yielding). CELTIC BOB staying-on 2l 2nd to Truism (rec 14lb) at Devon (2m 1f, good to firm).

FIRST CRACK, a course and distance winner, 21l 6th to Hard As Iron at Stratford (2m, good) with a below-par CELTIC BOB 8th. DEB'S BALL just over 10l 4th to Elder Prince at Haydock (2m, good to soft). ST LOUIS BLUES well-backed when beating Ockley 1l at Huntingdon (2m 100yd, good to firm). BICKERMAN running-on 1l 2nd to Sherwood Gunner at Wolverhampton (2m, good).

Selection: ST LOUIS BLUES

2.0 TANNERS WINES NOVICES CHASE (£3,863: 3m) (8 runners)

1 133 SENATOR OF ROME 13 (D,F) (H McCall) G Balding 7-11-7 Mr S Mellor ● 99
2 543-23P AFTER FOUR 21 (Anne Duchess of Westminster) R Francis 6-11-0 L Harvey 96
3 43-PF22 CASINO MAGIC 16 (Mrs M Wilson) J Spearing 6-11-0 R Bellamy (3) 93
4 /PP-003 HANSEL'S RUN 16 (Miss E Sneyd) Miss E Sneyd 9-11-0 D Gallagher 76
5 331-4F2 MAYORAN 23 (BF,F,G) (Lord Clinton) D Barons 8-11-0 H Davies 91
6 460P-P6 RHODBRIDGE 18 (P Clarke) M Castell 8-11-0 V Slattery (7) —
7 6UP33P PATCHOULI'S PET 23 (D,F) (G Parker) F Yardley 7-10-9 S Turner 84
8 BF/50-FF TRUE CLOWN 3 (Mrs S Orton) N Twiston-Davies 8-10-9 R Dunwoody —

BETTING: 2-1 Senator Of Rome, 7-2 Mayoran, 5-1 Casino Magic, 6-1 After Four, 10-1 True Clown, 16-1 Hansel's Run, Rhodbridge, 20-1 Patchouli's Pet.

1989: TENNFORED 8-11-0 J White (8-1 jt-fav) N Henderson 16 ran

FORM FOCUS SENATOR OF ROME beaten when blundering last in grade II race at Lingfield (3m, good) finishing 18¾l 3rd to Sparkling Flame; previously 1½l 2nd to Southerly Buster at Newbury (3m, firm).

AFTER FOUR 25l 3rd to Aston Express on penultimate start at Haydock (3m, soft). CASINO MAGIC running-on ½l 2nd, after slow start, to Tinas Lad here (2m 4f, good to firm) with HANSEL'S RUN (same terms) 15l 3rd.

MAYORAN one-paced 8l 2nd to Mandraki Shuffle at Hereford (3m 1f, good) with PATCHOULI'S PET tailed off when pulled up before 8th. PATCHOULI'S PET 1l 3rd to Bradwall on penultimate start at Wolverhampton (3m 1f, good to firm).

Selection: SENATOR OF ROME

2.30 TANNERS SAUVIGNON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HURDLE (£1,716: 2m) (12 runners)

1 11123-P PATRICK JAMES 14 (CD,F,G,S) (D West) F Jordan 5-12-0 J Lodder ● 99
2 80 PASHM 37 (H Ellis) O O'Neill 4-11-7 V Slattery 72
3 0/P-0006 SHIFNAL 29 (Star Eng Products (Shrewsbury) Ltd) A James 5-11-7 E Tierney —
4 3F60-00 SUNDAY JIM 46 (H Webb) H Webb 6-11-7 — 87
5 20-5PP0 CRYMLYN SWING 46 (A Phillips) William Price 8-11-2 M Head 86
6 316433 SEVEN SONS 29 (D,G) (G Cossey) W G M Turner 3-10-11 R Bellamy 88
7 54065 DAWN DECISION 2 (T Robertson) J Czerpak 3-10-7 A Wingate (5) 77
8 53 PHAROAH'S GUEST 7 (Lady Paget) M Blanshard 3-10-7 I Lawrence 80
9 00 SANAWI 38 (J Joseph) N Twiston-Davies 3-10-7 — —
10 665 TRIBUTE TO DAD 7 (Mrs E Heydn Jones) D Heydn Jones 3-10-7 — 79
11 2F412 MANUALE DEL UTENTE 15 (D,BF,F) (R Staples) M Pipe 3-10-6 M Foster 95
12 P KOUKLA 23 (Mrs P John) Mrs V Teal 3-10-2 R Martin (5) —

BETTING: 5-2 Patrick James, 3-1 Manuale Del Utente, 9-2 Seven Sons, 6-1 Tribute To Dad, 8-1 Pharoah's Guest, 12-1 Dawn Decision, 16-1 Pashm, Shifnal, 25-1 others.

1989: BASIC FUN 3-10-2 D Byrne (13-2) J Spearing 18 ran

FORM FOCUS PATRICK JAMES fair 8l 3rd to Sarnia Sound on final start last term in Perth claimer (2m, good). PASHM hinted at ability when 6th of 20 to Peace King on hurdling bow at Huntingdon (2m 100yd, good) but has since finished tailed off.

SHIFNAL never-dangerous 12l 6th to Rag Time Belle in novices' handicap over course and distance (good to firm). SEVEN SONS running-on 2½l 3rd to Corinthian Girl in claimer over course and distance (good to firm) with TRIBUTE TO DAD (1lb better off) 8½l 8th.

SANAWI never-dangerous 17l 12th to Frost at Towcester (2m, good) with DAWN DECISION tailed off. MANUALE DEL UTENTE jumped poorly when 2½l 2nd to Repaldo in Taunton seller (2m 110yd, good to firm) with PHAROAH'S GUEST (1lb worse off) 25½l 5th; earlier won seller over same course and distance (good to firm) by 8l from Jomana.

Selection: MANUALE DEL UTENTE

3.0 TANNERS CHAMPAGNE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,888: 2m 4f) (7 runners)

1 F60-2 THURSBY 41 (Anne Duchess of Westminster) T Forster 7-11-10 H Davies 92
2 128-40F KAMEO STYLE 16 (BF,F,G,S) (Three Counties Bloodstock) F Jordan 7-11-5 J Lodder (3) ● 99
3 0/165-04 SNOOKER TABLE 16 (D,F,G) (Mrs H Richards) K White 7-11-2 A O'Hagan 87
4 3442-23 MAJESTIC BRUNO 28 (Mrs D Fletcher) N Gaselee 8-10-13 E O'Donovan (7) 87
5 0/P00-4 COVA CAILE 21 (Mrs K Lloyd) T Bailey 6-10-10 B Dowling —
6 00-0005 PALACE GARDENS 7 (J Smith) J Bradley 6-10-10 D Tegg —
7 F00-0FF GAELIC CHERRY 21 (Anne Duchess of Westminster) R Francis 7-10-10 L Harvey —

BETTING: 2-1 Thursby, 9-4 Kameo Style, 11-2 Majestic Bruno, 7-1 Snooker Table, 12-1 Palace Gardens, 16-1 Cova Caile, 20-1 Gaelic Cherry.

1989: I LIKE IT A LOT 6-10-13 D Tegg (11-2) R Lee 15 ran

FORM FOCUS THURSBY hard ridden 2l 2nd to Hilarion at Windsor (2m 5f, good to firm); 14½l 5th of 15 to Uncle Raggy on penultimate start last term at Towcester (3m 190yd, good to soft).

KAMEO STYLE 14½l 4th to Southerly Buster on reappearance at Newbury (2m 4f, firm). SNOOKER TABLE 17½l 4th to Tinas Lad over course and distance (good to firm) with KAMEO STYLE in lead when falling 3 out.

MAJESTIC BRUNO tailed off 3rd behind Mandraki Shuffle at Taunton (3m, good to firm). COVA CAILE 32½l 4th to Ronans Birthday at Bangor (2m 4f, soft) with GAELIC CHERRY (same terms) 4th and beaten when fell last.

Selection: KAMEO STYLE

3.30 TANNERS CAVA STAKES NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£2,290: 2m) (18 runners)

1 AVONBURN (B) (H Spooner) M Robinson 6-11-2 S Hobson (5) —
2 BOLD ARTIST (P Coombes) W G M Turner 4-11-2 J Reeves (7) —
3 CHARLY MUTUAL (Mrs J Green) F Jordan 4-11-2 J Lodder (3) —
4 DANCING OATS (Mrs J St Clair-Ford) K Bailey 4-11-2 Mrs T Bailey —
5 EIGHTY EIGHT (Mrs H Dowson) Mrs H Dowson 5-11-2 W Marston (7) —
6 FIRST LESSON (Stainless Threaded Fasteners Ltd) Mrs S Oliver 4-11-2 V Slattery (7) —
7 GEE BEE JAY (G Jones) Mrs Gill E Jones 4-11-2 Mr C Farrell (7) —
8 JAMRAAN (Sporting Circle Racing) Mrs Gill E Jones 4-11-2 Mr M Jones (7) —
9 KNIGHTON COOMBE (G Lugg) T Forster 4-11-2 M Field (7) —
10 LAWNSWOOD SUN (A Hill) R Hollinshead 4-11-2 Mr S Wynne (7) —
11 LORENZA LAD (Mrs R Bradley) J Bradley 4-11-2 — —
12 PRIVY'S BOY (J Bradley) J Bradley 4-11-2 — —
13 WEST MONKTON (G Beccle) T Forster 4-11-2 Mr T Greed —
14 DRAKES SERENADE (Miss E Hill) Mrs H Parrott 4-10-11 D Leahy (7) —
15 NUT TREE (D Wike) D Wike 5-10-11 R Bellamy (3) —
16 PENMARTH (P Davenport) Mrs N Sharpe 4-10-11 I Lawrence —
17 PRIM AND PROPER (Miss L Davis) C Popham 4-10-11 S Donohoe (7) —
18 RUNNING KISS (Miss N Parker) M Pipe 5-10-11 M Foster (7) —

BETTING: 2-1 Running Kiss, 5-1 Lawnswood Sun, 6-1 Dancing Oats, 8-1 Avonburn, 10-1 Charly Mutual, Knighton Coombe, 12-1 Prim And Proper, 16-1 others.

1989: TREFELYN CONE 5-10-11 M Foster (8-11 fav) M Pipe 18 ran

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
M Pipe	29	105	27.6	A Mulholland	3	12	25.0
T Forster	18	75	24.0	J Lodder	6	31	19.4
R Lee	10	46	21.7	H Davies	16	84	19.0
N Gaselee	6	29	20.7	W McFarland	6	41	14.6
J Edwards	18	89	20.2	D Tegg	7	50	14.0
G Balding	5	25	20.0	R Dunwoody	12	105	11.4

Guide to our in-line racecard

1 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F – fell. P – pulled up. U – unseated rider. B – brought down. S – slipped up. R – refused. D – disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B – blinkers. V – visor. H – hood. E – Eyeshield. C – course winner. D – distance winner. CD – course and distance winner. BF – beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F – firm, good to firm, hard. G – good. S – soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

HEXHAM

Selections

By Mandarin

12.45 Rositary.
1.15 Montpelier Lad.
1.45 Manhattan Chase.
2.15 Far More.
2.45 Border Oak.
3.15 Impale.

Going: good to soft

SIS

12.45 TATTERSALLS MARES ONLY NOVICES CHASE (Qualifier: £2,513: 2m 4f) (7 runners)

1 102-F11 ROSITARY 3 (D,F,S) (P Winkworth) S Mellor 7-11-6 Mr Armytage 95
2 1-2F12F CANDLEBRIGHT 11 (BF,F,G,S) (Western Meeting Group) G Richards 6-11-1 N Doughty ● 99
3 30/0-F KEONI 23 (S Tabemer) G Moore 5-10-10 M Dwyer —
4 5 LOAN HILL 23 (T Finch) R Allen 6-10-10 R Marley —
5 02-422S MARCELLINA 8 (G,S) (Mrs M Charlton) E Alston 8-10-10 K Doolan 98
6 065-420 RUNNING FORTUNE 8 (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 5-10-10 R Stronge —
7 31-44F3 TYPHOON LUCY 18 (F) (G Stevenson) Mrs G Reveley 6-10-10 P Niven 92

BETTING: 8-13 Rositary, 4-1 Candlebright, 8-1 Marcellina, 12-1 Typhoon Lucy, 14-1 Keoni, 25-1 Running Fortune, 33-1 Loan Hill.

1989: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

1.15 PRIDE OF PLACE RACING MEMORABILIA NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £1,660: 2m) (10 runners)

1 11 MONTPELIER LAD 11 (D,F,G) (D Little) G Richards 11-9 N Doughty ● 99
2 64 AL FROLIC 11 (J Glass) P Monteith 10-9 L O'Hare 94
3 6 ALL WELCOME 18 (Lionville Builders Ltd) G Moore 10-9 J Callaghan (3) 88
4 005 BULLACE 8 (P Dobson) K Morgan 10-9 R Supple 93
5 P6F00 BUSY BOY 18 (R Lamb) R Lamb 10-9 K Jones —
6 5 CANNON'S SPIRIT 18 (T Cannon) Jimmy Fitzgerald 10-9 M Dwyer 89
7 58 DULVERTON 18 (R Flagg) J Parkes 10-9 N Smith (5) 93
8 454 HOLDFORTH 15 (R Coleman) Denys Smith 10-9 B Storey 98
9 60 HIGHLAND RIVER 18 (Miss K Clark) C Parker 10-4 K Doolan —
10 SPOOF 86F (S Husnjak & B King) M Hammond 10-4 P Niven —

BETTING: 4-9 Montpelier Lad, 11-2 Cannon's Spirit, 8-1 All Welcome, 12-1 Spoof, 16-1 Al Frolic, Holdforth, 20-1 Bullace, 25-1 others.

1989: LEIGH BOY 10-9 M Hammond (6-1) G Moore 9 ran

1.45 PORTMAN BLOODSTOCK NOVICES CHASE (£2,156: 3m) (7 runners)

1 34/0/05 ANDERO 21 (S) (A MacDonald) R Fisher 8-11-7 R Marley —
2 940/0-20 HE WHO DARES WINS 8 (I Cheesbrough) W A Stephenson 7-11-7 Mr K Johnson —
3 /40P-34 MANHATTAN CHASE 8 (P Hinchliff) G Richards 7-11-7 N Doughty ● 99
4 P5U64-4 MARLEFIELD 18 (W Stuart Wilson) K Oliver 8-11-7 T Reed 91
5 63450-P MUCK OR MONEY 11 (Exors of J Herdman) J Charlton 6-11-7 G Harker 78
6 P2120/3 SCANDALOUS RUMOUR 23 (G) (Mrs J Milligan) M Hammond 7-11-7 P Niven —
7 05 JUST MASKARAIDER 70 (W Aitchison) J Charlton 5-11-6 B Storey —

BETTING: 15-8 Manhattan Chase, 11-4 He Who Dares Wins, 5-1 Scandalous Rumour, 6-1 Marlefield, 12-1 Muck Or Money, 16-1 Andero, 20-1 Just Maskaraider.

1989: TARTAN TEMPEST 6-11-7 G McCourt (7-1) G Richards 16 ran

2.15 CHRISTMAS BARGAIN SELLING HURDLE (£1,618: 2m) (13 runners)

1 1/48 BELDINE 17 (D,F) (Lt-Col W Monteith) P Monteith 5-11-7 D Nolan —
2 43-12 FAR MORE 35 (F) (A Watson) Ron Thompson 4-11-7 G Harker ● 99
3 21 FIESOLE 10 (D,S) (R Wheeler) G Moore 4-11-2 M Dwyer 93
4 PP00/00 BELLE ISLE BILL 15 (B) (W Smith) W Smith 5-11-0 D Condell —
5 424-PU3 COUGAR 16 (Scotnorth Racing Ltd) Mrs S Austin 4-11-0 D Wilkinson 74
6 GOLD MINORIES 9F (Miss L Whitten) J Parkes 6-11-0 N Smith (5) —
7 29-2303 LEACROFT 23 (D,G) (W Haigh) W Haigh 6-11-0 P Niven 96
8 00-FPP LIOSEAN 22 (N Chamberlain) N Chamberlain 4-11-0 C Dennis (3) —
9 PP-00 MR POD 34 (Mrs M Lamb) R Lamb 4-11-0 K Jones —
10 3-23433 SUKAAB 10 (V) (T Hurst) G Richards 5-11-0 N Doughty 93
11 P FASHION SCENE 38 (C Rennison) W Storey 4-10-9 K Doolan —
12 0009- LYNDEN LASS 365 (Exors of R Dodd) M Dods 4-10-9 Mr N Wilson (7) —
13 3 PROPERS 22 (M Dods) M Dods 4-10-9 B Storey 76

BETTING: 5-2 Leacroft, 3-1 Fiesole, 9-2 Gold Minories, 6-1 Far More, 8-1 Sukaab, 10-1 Cougar, 12-1 others.

1989: EYE BEE AITCH 4-10-9 K Doolan (9-1) W Storey 9 ran

2.45 ST NICHOLAS HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE (£2,782: 2m 4f) (6 runners)

1 400P-31 SHOON WIND 23 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs M Scholey) M Hammond 7-11-10 P Niven 97
2 P03-342 QUEEN'S BAY LAD 45 (D,F,G) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 6-11-6 R Stronge 97
3 2P814-6 BORDER OAK 11 (C,F) (I Pearson) J Charlton 8-10-12 B Storey 98
4 10-5231 AINSTY FOX 10 (C,G,S) (C Burton) B Ellison 8-10-11 (7ex) — ● 99
5 153434 DIRECT INTEREST 11 (C,F,G) (J Blanchi) Denys Smith 7-10-8 D Crossman (7) 98
6 P-3361F BACK BEFORE DARK 23 (S) (J Pirie) K Oliver 6-10-3 G Thomson (7) 94

BETTING: 2-1 Shoon Wind, 3-1 Ainsty Fox, 5-1 Border Oak, 6-1 Direct Interest, 10-1 Queen's Bay Lad, 12-1 Back Before Dark.

1989: OWNS CASTLE 10-10-4 B Storey (7-1) J Johnson 4 ran

3.15 DILSTON HORSE SUPPLIES NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,716: 2m 4f) (13 runners)

1 2/425F-1 IMPALE 21 (D,S) (Miss J Reed) G Richards 6-12-0 N Doughty 98
2 6P ZARBANO 11 (Mrs I Forrest) R Lamb 4-12-0 K Jones —
3 31/0PP- MIGHTY MARK 244 (G,S) (Mrs F Walton) F Walton 11-11-10 T Reed —
4 000-421 KUSHBALOO 22 (D,G) (R Anderson Green) C Parker 5-11-7 B Storey 85
5 0/004-12 BREAKING DAWN 35 (G) (N Mason (Farms) Ltd) M Hammond 5-10-13 P Niven 87
6 060369 ROSEHIP 38 (Mrs J Porter) W A Stephenson 5-10-4 A Larnach (7) 93
7 40-0032 NESSFIELD 20 (Royston Racing Club Ltd) K Morgan 4-10-3 R Supple 95
8 P60PP3 FOCUS ON FOSTER 10 (V,F) (Foster Refrigerator) C Bell 8-10-2 — 98
9 0/6564P- ALAICBRUIN 270 (Mrs M Kenyon) R Earnshaw 5-10-1 S Mason (7) —
10 BP0/0-36 SOMBRERO GOLD 7 (BF) (S Warr) T Tate 5-10-0 W Fry (7) 96
11 1123-60 ARCTIC OATS 35 (F) (R Dineen) W Haigh 5-10-0 J Callaghan (3) ● 99
12 63P CLEAVERS GATE 28 (M Goose) N Tinkler 5-10-0 M Hill 90
13 5365/3P- CRACK-A-JIM 460 (S) (D Gill) Miss J Barclay 8-10-0 L O'Hare (3) —

Long handicap: Arctic Oats 9-13, Cleavers Gate 9-12, Crack-A-Jim 9-11.

BETTING: 3-1 Kushbaloo, 4-1 Cleavers Gate, 9-2 Impale, 6-1 Breaking Dawn, 8-1 Rosehip, 10-1 Nessfield, 12-1 Sombrero Gold, 14-1 others.

1989: WATERTIGHT 4-11-10 M Hammond (2-1 fav) G Moore 11 ran

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
S Mellor	3	4	75.0	R Supple	4	9	44.4
M Hammond	5	14	35.7	M Dwyer	14	65	21.5
N Tinkler	5	15	33.3	N Doughty	13	64	20.3
G Moore	27	82	32.9	D Nolan	10	55	18.2
W Haigh	3	12	25.0	J Callaghan	5	28	17.9
Jimmy Fitzgerald	10	40	25.0	M Hill	4	24	16.7

● The sponsors report interest in two English-trained entries for The Ladbroke at Leopardstown on January 12. Jenny Pitman's Wonder Man has been trimmed from 8-1 to 7-1 and David Elsworth's Major Inquiry from 16-1 to 14-1. In the Cheltenham Gold Cup, Corals have cut Garrison Savannah, a promising second to Celtic Shot at Haydock last week, from 20-1 to 14-1.

UTTOXETER

Selections

By Mandarin

12.0 Far Over Struy. 12.30 Mountain Cabin. 1.0 Chanakee. 1.30 Formula One. 2.0 Elder Prince. 2.30 Amari King. 3.0 Taurus. 3.30 Arctic Ruler.

By Michael Seely

1.30 Formula One. 2.0 Elder Prince. 2.30 AMARI KING (nap).

Going: good to soft (soft patches)

SIS

12.0 ST MODWEN NOVICES HURDLE (£2,626: 2m 4f) (16 runners)

1 05-1 BERESFORDS GIRL 57 (F) R Holder 5-10-11 N Mann (3)
2 0-P3 BERKANA RUN 29 B Cambidge 5-10-9 Mr J Cambidge
3 3 FAR OVER STRUY 22 O Sherwood 5-10-9 J Osborne
4 FOSTERS FOLLY 416F J Walmsley 4-10-9 S Turner
5 00-0 LEARNED STAR 25 J Eyre 5-10-9 C Hawkins
6 0 LORDY 55 J McConnochie 5-10-9 J Short
7 LOUIS FARRELL Miss H Knight 5-10-9 J Duggan
8 40- SAADOUN 348 Mrs P Sly 7-10-9 A Carroll
9 33- STAR PLAYER 323 J Baker 4-10-9 S Burrough (7)
10 3-6 TAGREED 55 D Murray Smith 5-10-9 S Smith Eccles
11 KAMAKAZE GIRL 71F J Mackie 4-10-4 S J O'Neill
12 0 MAID OF FIFE 14 S Campion 5-10-4 N Leach (7)
13 /23- MISS NEPTUNE 291 D Barons 6-10-4 N Hawke (3)
14 3 NEEDWOOD FOREST 24 B Morgan 7-10-4 N Coleman
15 5-42 POP ABROAD 15 P Bevan 5-10-4 T Wall
16 6 THE NUNS STORY 23 J Chugg 5-10-4 M Lynch

5-2 Far Over Struy, 100-30 Pop Abroad, 6-1 Star Player, 8-1 Berkana Run, Miss Neptune, 10-1 others.

12.30 JENKINSONS CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (£2,836: 3m 2f) (15)

1 /P-P EBONY SWELL 14 (S) S Campion 9-12-0 N Leach (5)
2 21-1 BOREEN OWEN 22 (G) J J O'Neill 6-12-0 F Murtagh
3 2F-4 MOUNTAIN CABIN 27 D Murray Smith 8-11-4 P Verling
4 PP-3 COMRA 18 (B,G,S) G Ham 11-11-1 S Burrough (5)
5 13-6 DR PEPPER 10 (D,G,S) D Barons 13-10-13 N Hawke
6 5430 COUTURE COLOR 5 (D,S) J Mackie 7-10-9 J Manson (5)
7 FP/6 ROYAL REPLY 14 (D,F,G) G Ham 10-10-8 M A Fitzgerald (5)
8 2-19 PERNOIC 17 (CD,BF,F,G) R Lee 10-10-8 —
9 4325 ARDENT SPY 43 (CD,F,G,S) W Clay 13-10-7 R Bevan
10 0412 RONANS BIRTHDAY 15 (S) Mrs S Oliver 8-10-4 Gary Lyons
11 0 P/0 HILL OF SLANE 17 (F,G,S) K Burke 14-10-2 D Skyrme
12 534F MONTGOMERY 21 (D,F,G,S) W McKenzie-Coles 9-10-0 W Irvine
13 SP-4 MUCHGRANGE 32 P Bevan 9-10-0 J Railton
14 P02- LEAN DRT 228 (D,F,G,S) P Dalton 12-10-0 J O'Hanlon (5)
15 0P-0 SILVER SKYLARK 22 P Hobbs 6-10-0 C Maude

5-2 Boreen Owen, 5-1 Ronans Birthday, 6-1 Mountain Cabin, 8-1 Ardent Spy, Comra, Pernoic, 10-1 others.

1.0 ROCESTER FC CLAIMING HURDLE (£1,968: 2m) (18)

1 -151 CHANAKEE 16 (D,F,G,S) M Pipe 4-12-2 J Lower
2 6 ANURAG 35 W Mustow 4-11-10 R Beggan
3 INFALLIBLE 1150F R Marvin 5-11-10 J A Harris
4 603/ HELLO TROUBLE 557F Mrs P Sly 6-11-7 A Carroll
5 6-20 REEF PATRICK 51 (D,F) Miss G Rees 5-11-7 W Worthington
6 3-0 YORK STREET 18 J Baker 5-11-7 S Burrough (7)
7 21 LEGAL STREAK 21 (D,S) Miss S Wilton 3-11-5 L Wyer
8 0/0- BALMUR 418 Mrs J Croft 5-11-4 D Bridgwater (7)
9 DANDY'S GIRL 21F R Marvin 5-11-2 P Williams (7)
10 3815 THEY ALL FORGOT ME 14 (D,D,G) T Casey 3-11-1 M Lynch
11 5 COMEDY RIVER 6F J Spearing 3-10-11 D Byrne
12 FARNDALE 127F Miss S Wilton 3-10-10 S Davies (3)
13 6 MONSIEUR MORUE 30 R Holder 3-10-10 N Mann (3)
14 GO BOY GO 208F Miss C Caroe 3-10-8 A Stanford (7)
15 KING OF SHADOWS 36F R Hollinshead 3-10-7 Gary Lyons (3)
16 6 MISTRESS ROSIE 24 Mrs S Armytage 3-10-3 Gee Armytage
17 0322 REEF NATIVE 20 (BF) M Barraclough 3-10-3 —
18 YOUNG INDIA 52F D Burchell 3-10-3 D J Burchell

13-8 Chanakee, 11-2 Anurag, 8-1 Legal Streak, York Street, 10-1 Farndale, 12-1 Comedy River, 14-1 others.

Course specialists

TRAINERS: Jimmy Fitzgerald, 9 winners from 22 runners, 40.9%; C Brooks, 7 from 18, 38.9%; F Lee, 3 from 9, 33.3%; P Bailey, 4 from 13, 30.8%; N Gaselee, 5 from 17, 29.4%; N Tinkler, 4 from 14, 28.6%.

JOCKEYS: N Williamson, 6 winners from 15 rides, 40.0%; D Byrne, 5 from 18, 27.8%; S Smith Eccles, 15 from 59, 25.4%; J Lower, 4 from 16, 25.0%; B de Haan, 10 from 40, 25.0%; G McCourt, 15 from 70, 21.4%.

1.30 HEATHYARDS NOVICES CHASE (£2,944: 2m 4f) (14)

1 -212 BRADWALL 15 (F,S) G Barlow 6-11-4 B de Haan
2 1-F1 COUTURE STOCKINGS 20 (CD,F,G) J Mackie 5-11-4 S J O'Neill
3 5-61 FOREST RAIN 17 (D,F,G) N Gaselee 7-11-4 A Adams
4 223- FORMULA ONE 245 (D,S) J Edwards 8-10-12 N Williamson
5 -358 GORSE HUNTER 18 (G) P Hobbs 7-10-12 C Maude (5)
6 2222 KNOCKENNIS 15 (F,G) R Lee 7-10-12 S Smith Eccles
7 12P- LYPHEORIC 244 (D,G) Mrs J Ramsden 5-10-12 D Byrne
8 P/04 PROVERBIAL KNIGHT 16 J Spearing 7-10-12 R Guest
9 1-9F REPEAT THE DOSE 17 (D,F) T Etherington 5-10-12 —
10 /10- STIRRUP CUP 357 (G,S) O Sherwood 6-10-12 J Osborne
11 9-13 THE MASTER GUNNER 9 (G,S) P Bailey 6-10-12 M Richards
12 00- THE MOSSES 323 T Forster 5-10-12 C Llewellyn
13 13-0 UP-A-POINT 17 (F) F Lee 5-10-12 C Hawkins
14 00 OCTOBER DAYS 48 C Broad 8-10-7 A Carroll

11-10 Formula One, 7-2 Couture Stockings, 5-1 Forest Rain, 8-1 Knockennis, 12-1 Repeat The Dose, 14-1 others.

2.0 LADBROKE HANDICAP HURDLE (4-Y-O: £2,024: 2m) (9)

1 1151 ELDER PRINCE 9 (D,F,S) M H Easterby 11-10 L Wyer
2 -001 SAGAMAN 22 (D,G) L Codd 11-4 P Leech
3 0-26 NEW ARRANGEMENT 17 (D,G) J Jenkins 11-4 S Smith Eccles
4 1-43 DALE PARK 17 (D,BF,G,S) N Tinkler 11-2 G McCourt
5 2-20 STAY AWAKE 17 (D,F,G,S) J J O'Neill 11-1 F Murtagh (7)
6 1-30 JOE BUMPAS 48 (D,F,S) Miss G Rees 10-12 W Worthington
7 1200 DRIVING FORCE 18 (F) M McCourt 10-7 J Osborne
8 -223 REVARO 17 Mrs J Ramsden 10-7 D Byrne
9 4P2- FEELING BETTER 254 F Jordan 10-0 T Rudd (7)

9-4 Elder Prince, 4-1 Dale Park, 6-1 Driving Force, 8-1 New Arrangement, Revaro, 10-1 Joe Bumpas, 12-1 others.

2.30 ADDISON OF NEWPORT HANDICAP CHASE (£3,412: 2m) (7)

1 33P6 MASNOON 20 (D,F,G,S) J Eyre 7-12-0 C Hawkins
2 1222 ROYAL CRACKER 14 (V,CD,BF,F,G,S) T Bill 5-11-3 G McCourt
3 3/1- TOM CAXTON 364 (CD,G,S) J King 9-11-0 C Llewellyn
4 1F-1 AMARI KING 37 (D,G,S) T Forster 6-11-0 J Railton
5 P-61 FAMOUS LAD 21 (D,S) R Lee 7-10-7 J Short
6 31-4 SIKERA SPY 18 (D,F) Mrs A Hewitt 8-10-3 S J O'Neill
7 4211 SOUTH POOL 14 (V,D,F,G,S) D Barons 6-10-0 N Hawke (5)

2-1 Amari King, 9-2 Royal Cracker, 6-1 Famous Lad, 7-1 Sikera Spy, 8-1 Tom Caxton, 12-1 others.

3.0 LEVY BOARD CHRISTMAS BOX NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (Div I: £1,870: 2m) (16)

1 1- DAKYNS BOY 246 (D,S) J Edwards 5-11-9 —
2 1 GRANGE BRAKE 25 (D,S) N Twiston-Davies 4-11-9 C Maude (5)
3 CAPTAIN BAERL Mrs A Hewitt 4-11-2 P Johnson (7)
4 COOL FELLOW D Morris 5-11-2 B McGill (5)
5 DERRING VALLEY A Jones 5-11-2 M Thomas (7)
6 PARSON'S THORNS C Brooks 5-11-2 Mr J Durkan (5)
7 SHREWD JOHN R Woodhouse 4-11-2 C Ryan (7)
8 TAURUS Mrs J Pitman 4-11-2 —
9 TROODOS Mrs S Austin 4-11-2 F Murtagh (7)
10 TUROLDUS S Mellor 5-11-2 Gary Lyons (3)
11 ANJOUAN R Holder 5-10-11 N Mann (5)
12 CHELWORTH COUNTESS J Spearing 4-10-11 Miss T Spearing (7)
13 GREEK BALLET J Old 4-10-11 P Davies (7)
14 ROMANY GOLD N Smith 4-10-11 G Rowe (7)
15 SPEY ROYALE J McConnochie 4-10-11 —
16 TUDOR SUNSET B Forsey 5-10-11 S Burrough (7)

11-4 Dakyns Boy, 7-2 Grange Brake, 9-2 Taurus, 6-1 Parson's Thorns, 8-1 Turoldus, 10-1 Greek Ballet, 12-1 others.

3.30 LEVY BOARD CHRISTMAS BOX NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (Div II: £1,856: 2m) (16)

1 1-2 FORGET THE REST 34 (D,G) Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-9 W Dwan (7)
2 ARCTIC RULER D Murray Smith 4-11-2 P Verling (3)
3 DREAMERS DELIGHT R Hollinshead 4-11-2 Gary Lyons (3)
4 FINE HARVEST B McMahon 4-11-2 Mr E McMahon
5 HAND BASIN R Holder 5-11-2 N Mann (5)
6 HONEYWALL LAD G Thorner 5-11-2 D Bridgwater (7)
7 IVE GOT MINE Miss E Sneyd 5-11-2 I Shoemark (3)
8 KINDLED'S CLOWN Miss H Knight 4-11-2 Mr G Cosgrove (7)
9 PRIDE OF NEWLANDS M Pipe 5-11-2 D Richmond (7)
10 SIMPSON J Old 5-11-2 P Davies (7)
11 SPY'S DELIGHT Mrs A Hewitt 4-11-2 P Johnson (7)
12 SUNNY BAIZE T Casey 5-11-2 —
13 URCCA A J Wilson 4-11-2 C Maude (5)
14 FOXGROVE Mrs C Middleton 4-10-11 P Williams (7)
15 HOUSE PORT F Yardley 4-10-11 Mr M Harris (7)
16 MISS MIMS M Bradstock 4-10-11 —

Evens Forget The Rest 3-1 Arctic Ruler, 5-1 Pride Of Newlands, 8-1 Miss Mims, 10-1 Dreamers Delight, 12-1 others.

Results from yesterday's two meetings

Towcester

Going: good

12.30 (2m hdle) 1, SMITH'S CRACKER (M Bowlby, 8-1); 2, Blaskaburg (M Dwyer, 8-1); 3, Motor Cloak (J Brown, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 5 jt-fav Duo Drom, Pitchcott Hill (pu), Queen Of Sports (ur), 11-2 The Fax Man (4th), 6 Shadow Run (5th), 12 The Shy Controller (6th), 20 Red Scorpion (ref), Rough Jewel, 33 Arbee Twenty (pu), Celtic Showman (pu), Kilroy (pu), Migration Bird, Terpsichorean (pu), Chichell's Hurst. 17 ran. NR: Mr Patrick. 4l, 15l, 8l, 4l, 12l. Mrs J Pitman at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £8.90; £3.50, £3.30, £9.30. DF: £17.30. CSF: £73.00.

1.0 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1, PAMBER PRIORY (B Powell, 7-1); 2, Close Escape (J Osborne, 7-2); 3, Flora Louisa (L Harvey, 40-1). ALSO RAN: 8-13 fav Duntree (f), 20 First Sea Lord (pu), 25 End Result (pu), 40 Bonanza Rebel (pu), 50 Mister Hammy (f), Mr Rumpole (4th), Plenty Of Chit (pu), The Curate (pu), Woodlands Genpower (pu). 12 ran. 15l, ¾l, 15l. B Smart at Lambourn. Tote: £4.20; £1.10, £1.70, £3.60. DF: £13.10. CSF: £23.67.

1.30 (2m hdle) 1, DECIDING BID (Leesa Long, 8-1); 2, Parkway Express (M Stevens, 16-1); 3, Rowhedge (S Curran, 11-8 fav). ALSO RAN: 4 Flying Junction, 8 Nel Cal (4th), 12 Rochalior, 14 Nathir (5th), 16 Jenood, Caymanis (pu), 33 Hazy Dancer, Sally Forth (6th), Presidential Star (pu). 12 ran. 1l, ¾l, hd, 1½l, 6l. J Long at Plumpton. Tote: £11.70; £2.50, £2.00, £1.50. DF: £38.30. CSF: £118.59. Bought in 5,400gns.

2.0 (3m 190yd ch) 1, MR PINKERTON (A Adams, 6-1); 2, Hasty Diver (C Llewellyn, 7-2 fav); 3, Stream Bridge (J Osborne, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 See You There (pu), 8 Sam Shorrock (5th), 11 Team Challenge (pu), 12 Tarconey (6th), Farm Week (ur), 14 Rock Saint (pu), 16 Isaac Newton, 25 Goodman Point, Kingswood Kitchens (4th). 12 ran. 2l, 4l, 3l, 2½l, 2l. N Gaselee at Lambourn. Tote: £9.40; £2.90, £2.10, £2.00. DF: £29.10. CSF: £27.24. Tricast: £105.48.

2.30 (2m 50yd ch) 1, INFINITY RULES (M Perrett, 2-1 fav); 2, Lord Admiral (Gee Armytage, 20-1); 3, J J Jimmy (R Dunwoody, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Going Gets Tough (5th), 4 Roman Dart (4th), 7 Dr Rocket (ur), 16 Hard To Live (6th). 7 ran. 2½l, 3l, ½l, 6l, 12l. S Mellor at Swindon. Tote: £2.70; £1.90, £2.30. DF: £15.80. CSF: £32.36.

3.0 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1, CARDINAL RALPH (R Rowe, 13-8 fav); 2, Latent Talent (J Osborne, 7-4); 3, Trostrey (B Dowling, 50-1). ALSO RAN: 8 Turpin's Green (pu), 10 True Loop (ref), Tug Of Gold (4th), 16 Penalty Double (f), 33 Sheephaven (pu), 50 Coppett Song (5th), Western Breeze (ur), 66 Seriozha (pu), Silken Ranger (pu). 12 ran. ½l, 15l, 20l, 15l. J Gifford at Findon. Tote: £2.60; £1.20, £1.20, £13.00. DF: £5.20. CSF: £4.76.

3.30 (2m hdle) 1, CHARLTON YEOMAN (R Rowe, 11-8); 2, Tekla (M Dwyer, 5-4 fav); 3, Scole (D Murphy, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 10 Draw Poker (5th), 20 Sorucer (4th), 33 Doonloughan (6th), Never Learn (pu), Uncle Mogy, 50 Comers Gate, Garston La Gaffe, Nelsonspatentplus (pu), Royal Upham (pu), Sarum Prince, Fairfield's Breeze, Hi Boots (f), Shiny Kricket, Ballyrick (bd). 17 ran. NR: Cool Trade. ¾l, sh hd, 7l, 2½l, 2½l. J Gifford at Findon. Tote: £3.00; £1.30, £1.60, £2.30. DF: £2.70. CSF: £3.64.

Placepot: £106.90.

Kelso

Going: good to soft (one fence omitted on chase course).

12.15 (2m 6f hdle) 1, COWGATE FOUNTAIN (P Niven, 9-2); 2, Stagshaw Belle (Mr J Bradburne, 5-1); 3, Alan's Friend (N Doughty, 15-8 fav). ALSO RAN: 5 Mega Blue (6th), 12 Red Dusk (pu), 33 Just For John (pu), The Wrens Den (5th), Willow Wood (4th), Zolaberry (pu), 50 Corby Crown, 100 Polite Lady (pu), Redhall Royale, 200 Chilton Lady, Lady Ming (pu). 14 ran. 10l, 7l, 12l, 12l, 1½l. Mrs G Reveley at Saltburn-by-the-Sea. Tote: £4.20; £1.40, £2.60, £1.30. DF: £4.70. CSF: £23.07.

12.45 (2m 6f ch) 1, JESTERS PROSPECT (N Doughty, 8-11 fav); 2, Roy's Dream (C Hawkins, 12-1); 3, Bantel Buccaneer (T Reed, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 7 Divine Charger (5th), 16 John North, Last Of The Flies (4th), Terebinth (f), 20 Potato Picker (5th), Mister Kelly (pu), 100 Lucky Fellow (ur), Pavilion D'Amour (f), Rallye Stripe (f), Sloshed (pu). 13 ran. NR: Ah Jim Lad. 15l, 1½l, 15l, 1½l, 12l. G Richards at Greystoke. Tote: £1.60; £2.20, £2.30, £2.10. DF: £12.80. CSF: £10.44.

1.15 (3m 4f ch) 1, SNOWFIRE CHAP (P Niven, 4-1); 2, Into The Mystic (G McCourt, 100-30 fav); 3, Castlevennon (J O'Gorman, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Berkin (f), 6 Oceanus (pu), 10 Samfen (pu), 20 Garbally Park (6th), 25 Brownhill Lass, Randomly (5th), 33 Bonnie Artist (4th), Magwood, 100 Jumboco (pu). 12 ran. 7l, 3l, 4l, 30l, 15l. Mrs G Reveley at Saltburn-by-the-Sea. Tote: £2.80; £1.80, £1.60, £4.30. DF: £7.50. CSF: £16.71. Tricast: £93.19.

1.45 (2m hdle) 1, MARLINGFORD (B Storey, 10-1); 2, San Pier Niceto (P Niven, 7-4 fav); 3, Longshoreman (G McCourt, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 Peggy Fish (6th), 14 Facility Letter (5th), 20 Huckleberry Win (pu), 25 Herberto, 33 Cash Point, Sheriff's Band, Taskforce Fixed It, 100 Souter's Hill (4th), Susan's Pet, Daisy Brae (pu). 13 ran. 12l, 12l, ¾l, nk, ¾l. Mrs J Jordan at Leyburn. Tote: £9.20; £2.30, £1.20, £1.80. DF: £28.80. CSF: £27.09.

2.15 (2m 6f ch) 1, NORVAL (P Niven, 15-8 fav); 2, Interim Lib (Mr J Bradburne, 9-4); 3, Jack Of Clubs (G McCourt, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 6 The Antartex (pu), 12 Galadine (pu), 20 Fair Echo (4th), 25 Toddlin Hame (pu). 7 ran. 4l, 30l, 15l. Mrs G Reveley at Saltburn-by-the-Sea. Tote: £2.40; £2.00, £2.50. DF: £3.30. CSF: £6.12.

2.45 (2m 2f hdle) 1, WHITWOOD (Rachel Halden, 7-2; Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Galloway Raider (D Crossman, 3-1 fav); 3, Pendley Gold (J Callaghan, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Sonny One Shine (5th), 6 Dawn Coyote (4th), 8 Scarning Dale (pu), 20 War Dancer (6th), Great Law, 50 Rossville, Wide Receiver. 10 ran. 1l, 12l, 15l, 2l, 4l. C Bell at Doncaster. Tote: £6.30; £3.00, £1.10, £2.60. DF: £10.50. CSF: £14.19. Tricast: £47.66.

Placepot: £5.00

Moves towards national lottery gather pace

By JOHN GOODBODY

WITH a new atmosphere at No. 10 Downing Street, the push to establish a national lottery, which could raise £300 million a year for British sport, is gaining momentum.

The British Olympic Association (BOA) yesterday added its weight to the move to have a lottery accepted by the government before 1992, when Britons will be able to buy tickets in lotteries in other Common Market countries.

A spokeswoman for the BOA said: "We have talked about a lottery with our European counterparts and we would be delighted of any success in this area. After 1992, we could have the situation where foreign countries could raise money for their Olympic teams by selling lottery tickets in the UK.

"Clearly, if we are ever to stage the Olympic Games in this country again we need greater funding and better facilities and a national lottery would be a way of achieving some of these." On Wednesday, the BOA agreed to hear bids from cities wanting to stage the 2000 Games, but warned it could cost £1 billion in facilities and organisation.

The Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), which represents the national governing bodies, has been campaigning for a lottery for 15 years and, earlier this month, the Sports Council, the government-funded quango, gave its support to the principle.

There is a widespread feeling in Parliament that the time is ripe for a lottery, which would equally benefit arts and the environment, as well as sport. Mrs. Thatcher, possibly because her Methodist upbringing gave her a distaste for gambling, is understood to have been against the scheme. However, the moral argument is weak since the government receives nearly £1 billion in betting tax.

John Major, a noted sports enthusiast, may well be more enthusiastic than his predecessor. The interest in the British market is clear. Since January 1, 1990, HM Customs and Excise has seized nearly three million envelopes of foreign lottery material coming from Canada, Germany, Austria, Spain and the United States.

Denis Vaughan, a conductor, who is one of the directors of the Lottery Promotion Company Ltd, together with Lord Birkett, the Earl of Harewood, Denis Howell, and Eddie Kulukundis, the impresario, is optimistic.

"There is new, fresh thinking in the cabinet on the wisdom of the lottery. We are encouraged by the response that we have had from some cabinet ministers to the idea of a lottery and we hope the government will, in the course of time, take the initiative," he said.

The law, which needs to be removed from the statute book, prohibits any prize of more than £12,000 being awarded for a game of chance; winning the football pools is bizarrely regarded as a game of skill. A national lottery is eventually expected to offer total prize-money of £6 million a week.

The pools companies are worried about the setting up of a national lottery, because they fear that money will be diverted from people completing their coupons. However, as the adjoining table clearly shows, the average Briton spends far less on betting on the pools than foreigners do on their national lotteries.

Peter Lawson, the secretary of the CCPR, said yesterday: "We want the pools companies and also the Tote to be involved because they have the experience. We have drawn up a paper, which has been sent to the pools companies and the government. We do not want the government to run the lottery. We just want it to pass legislation to enable the lottery to be established."

Last summer, the lottery was the subject of a private members' bill, sponsored by Ken Hargreaves, the Tory MP for Hyndburn, which was lost when it failed to get government backing. The scheme may also receive support from the Treasury, which would have an overseeing role in a national scheme, because it could eventually result in the profits from the lottery replacing some of the tax-payers' money, now used to support sport, the arts and the environment.

Vaughan said yesterday that the next step is to get a leading figure, connected with environment issues, to join the board. He has already been heartened by the support of Peter Palumbo, the chairman of the Arts Council, who hopes that the plans will be put before Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, early in the new year.

A number of ministers have been privately sympathetic to the idea. Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, has been encouraging in the past as has David Mellow, formerly arts minister and now chief secretary to the Treasury.

There is a feeling in the Tory party which refuses to acknowledge anything that might encourage gambling. However, there is also a feeling that if it is a national habit, then it is far better to channel it into something useful.

HOW THEY COMPARE

COUNTRY	POP millions	SALES (£ millions)	PER CAP (£)
*USA	134.62	10,160.17	£75.47
Canada	25.34	1,538.63	£60.72
Australia	19.5	979.01	£50.20
Belgium	9.98	341.66	£34.55
Denmark	5.07	136.00	£26.83
France	55.81	1,458.76	£26.14
W Germany	60.20	2,684.23	£44.59
Ireland	3.54	98.94	£27.96
Italy	57.44	1,116.58	£19.44
Spain	39.78	2,528.07	£63.55
Norway	4.20	338.04	£80.48
Finland	4.99	459.58	£92.10
Malta	0.36	20.19	£56.09
†Britain	56.65	583.84	£10.31

* Figures only include those states where lotteries are run.

† For football pools only.

Figures for 1989. Source: International Gaming and Wagering Business Magazine.

LEADING LOTTERIES IN THE REST OF EUROPE

FRANCE

THE French can choose from a three-tier national system and local and regional operations. The oldest is the numbers-based Loterie Nationale, whose present form dates from the 1930s, when individual communes used lotteries to raise funds for their fire brigades.

Controlled by the finance ministry, it offers punters two forms — full tickets at prices from the equivalent of £1 to about £18.50 and *dixièmes*, or one-tenth of a full ticket. There is an immensely popular weekly variation called Tacotac (also available in full and one-tenth tickets), in which tickets give the chance of an immediate top prize of about £30,000 (by scratching up the right number) and offer a place in the main Loterie Nationale draw, with the top prize worth about £400,000.

The Loto Nationale, also numbers-based, was set up in 1976. The state controls over 70 per cent of the operation. Its complex array of variations quickly became popular. Tickets offer two draws every Wednesday or two every Wednesday and Saturday. Prices begin at about 20p; the most expensive ticket is about £1.50. Tickets are available at 13,500 outlets.

Loto Sportif involves a numbers system linked to predicting results from 13 French football matches. Tickets cost from about 50p to £100 for a "perm".

SPAIN

SPANIARDS will bet on anything. The state runs one or more lottery games five days in the week. There are three kinds of state-run lottery and the state-run football pool. There are also lotteries run by regional governments and a daily lottery for the blind.

The annual Christmas lottery is the biggest single draw in the world. By the time the multi-million-pound *El Gordo* and the rest of the lucky numbers are drawn on Saturday, the National Lottery Organisation expects to have sold £810 million worth of tickets.

One out of every six ticket-holders gets a prize, ranging from your money back to 10,000 times the amount you paid. There are 90 top prizes of £1.4 million each.

The weekly lottery is similar, with a 70 per cent payout, but is not so big. Prices range from £2.72 to £13.59 for a *décimo*, one tenth of a share of a given number.

The so-called Loteria Primitiva is of the lotto type, in which you mark off at least six numbers on a sheet. The Bono-Loto, a variation, with four draws a week, works the same way.

The football pools, run by the state, work much the same as they do in most countries. The trick is to guess whether the outcome of each of a series of 14 listed matches will be a win, defeat or draw for the home team.

ITALY

A FORMER Italian prime minister said that lotteries were "a tax on imbeciles". The state, with a monopoly of lotteries, has never hesitated to play "croupier" as long as the odds were heavily stacked in its favour.

There used to be four national lotteries a year: Monza, Agnano, Merano and Capodanno (New Year). Over the past few years the national lotteries have become 13, with staggering ticket sales. The Lotteria Italia, the most successful, sells about 40 million tickets at about £2.50 each.

In this and the weekly pools, Lotto and Totip, the state takes 33 per cent off the top, another third goes to the organisers, and a third of the takings is paid back in prizes. It is a game that is attracting more and more players, increasingly from the middle and upper classes.

The winning tickets are chosen by chance, but in some cases individual lotteries are loosely linked to a sports event, a song contest or a television show. Most are based in a town which receives a slice of the gross takings. Dozens of small towns want to start their own lottery.

Meanwhile, the football pools continue to do well. The Totip is similar to the pools but based on 12 horse races instead of 13 football matches. Another popular gamble is Lotto. A player chooses a set of figures, or combination of sets of figures and if these turn up he or she wins.

CRICKET

Umpire threatens to walk after run-in with critical Imran

SHARJAH (Reuter) — A heated clash with Imran Khan, the Pakistan captain, led to the Indian umpire, P. D. Reporter, threatening to walk off the field during a one-day cricket competition yesterday.

The rumpus began when Reporter called Aaqib Javed, the Pakistan fast bowler, for bowling wide in the Sharjah Cup match in the United Arab Emirates against Sri Lanka, who won by six wickets.

Imran, fielding at mid-on, walked to the umpire and said something which prompted Reporter to signal towards the pavilion and start walking. However, Javed Miandad ran from the long-leg boundary to calm the situation.

The dispute was caused by the umpires' interpretation of the regulations concerning wides and no-balls. Pakistan conceded 26 wides and 12 no-balls in a total of 44 extras.

Imran said: "There was a lack of consistency by the umpires. We were trying to make this point." Reporter said: "Something happened between us but it is all settled now."

Sri Lanka won the first of the two cup games by virtue of impressive out-cricket. Rumesh Ratnayake, the medium-pacer, returned his best figures in one-day internationals of five for 32 and Hashan Tillekeratne, the wicketkeeper, snapped up five catches as Pakistan were all out for 170 after 43 overs.

Sri Lanka swept home, scoring 172 for four in 39.5 overs, after an unbeaten fifth-wicket partnership of 77 between the captain, Arjuna Ranatunga (45 not out), and Roshan Mahanama (24 not out).

Pakistan had made a deceptively encouraging start, reaching 46 without loss, when Ratnayake took three wickets, two in successive balls. The running-out of Javed Miandad saw Pakistan slump to 57 for four.

A fifth-wicket stand of 76 between Imran (43) and Ijaz Ahmed (38) steadied the innings, but once the two were parted playing loose strokes, Sri Lanka swiftly wrapped up the lower order.

PAKISTAN

Saeed Anwar c Tillekeratne b Ratnayake	32
Zahid Fazal c Mahanama b Ratnayake	11
Javed Miandad run out	4
Salim Malik c Tillekeratne b Ratnayake	0
*Imran Khan c Tillekeratne b Warnaweera	42
Ijaz Ahmed c Warnaweera b Ramanayake	38
Wasim Akram b Ramanayake	8
†Saleem Yousuf c Tillekeratne b Ratnayake	10
Mushtaq Ahmed lbw b Ramanayake	4
Waqar Younis not out	2
Aaqib Javed c Tillekeratne b Ratnayake	0
Extras (b 1, lb 7, w 6, nb 3)	17
Total (43 overs)	170

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-46, 2-56, 3-56, 4-57, 5-133, 6-147, 7-152, 8-157, 9-170.

BOWLING: Labrooy 8-0-31-0; Ramanayake 9-0-23-3; Ratnayake 9-1-32-5; A Ranatunga 9-0-27-0; Warnaweera 8-0-66-1; Gurusinha 1-0-7-0.

SRI LANKA

D Ranatunga lbw b Akram	0
†H P Tillekeratne lbw b Akram	3
A P Gurusinha b Younis	33
A De Silva lbw b Aaqib	23
*A Ranatunga not out	45
R S Mahanama not out	24
Extras (b 8, w 25, nb 12)	44
Total (4 wickets - 39.5 overs)	172

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-27, 3-63, 4-85.

S T Jayasuriya, G F Labrooy, R J Ratnayake, C P Ramanayake and J Warnaweera did not bat.

BOWLING: Imran 8-2-33-0; Akram 9-0-40-2; Younis 9-1-35-1; Aaqib 8-0-27-1; Mushtaq 5.5-0-24-0; Ijaz 2-0-7-0.

Waugh brothers wage an impressive revival

SYDNEY (Reuter) — An unbroken partnership of 238 in 206 minutes between the Waugh brothers, Mark and Steve, put New South Wales in the driver's seat of their Sheffield Shield match against Western Australia yesterday.

Mark Waugh reached 128, including 20 boundaries, and Steve 112, with 15 fours, by the close to lead New South Wales from a shaky 137 for four to 375 for four on the first of the four-day match in Perth. They took advantage of a good batting pitch and fast outfield after their side had been put in.

The left-arm international fast bowler, Bruce Reid, was the most successful bowler, taking three for 87 and keeping the contest evenly poised before the Waughs tilted the balance.

Meanwhile, Tasmania were hauled out of trouble against Queensland in Brisbane by a half-century from Bruce Cruse.

The former international, Craig McDermott, and his fellow pace bowler, Dirk Tazelaar, had Tasmania reeling at 103 for six before Cruse, who hit 68, helped to lift his side to 240 for seven at the close of the first day.

Cruse, dropped on 11, was supported in admirable style by the former Test fast bowler, Dave Gilbert, with 31 not out in an unbroken eighth-wicket stand of 88, after McDermott, four for 90, and Tazelaar, three for 45, had done the damage.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/P	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	+ temp °C	Last snow fall
AUSTRIA								
St Anton	35	110	good	powder	good	fine	-6	20/12
Good off piste skiing due to recent snow fall. On piste conditions are excellent with no queues								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	65	200	good	powder	good	fine	-10	18/12
Excellent snow. Major lifts open.								
Chamonix	40	180	good	varied	fair	fine	0	20/12
Pistes in excellent condition.								
Isola 2000	130	160	good	powder	good	cloud	-6	19/12
Excellent skiing conditions on uncrowded pistes.								
Tignes	70	175	good	powder	good	fine	-8	19/12
Superb skiing. Espace Killy open this weekend.								
Val d'Isère	67	110	good	powder	good	fine	-8	19/12
Superb skiing, on and off piste. No crowds. 37 of 48 ski lifts open.								
Val Thorens	105	160	good	crust	good	sun	-2	19/12
Generally very good skiing although a few icy patches. 25 of 38 ski lifts open.								
SWITZERLAND								
Klosters	35	100	good	varied	good	fine	-2	16/12
Good skiing in most areas, excellent on the Parsenn. 25 of 29 ski lifts open.								
Verbier	35	150	fair	powder	fair	fair	-4	19/12
Middle slopes becoming icy in patches. Excellent snow.								
Zermatt	90	110	good	varied	fair	fine	-7	13/12
Good skiing on the Gornergrat and Sunegga.								
USA								
Vail	71	107	good	powder	good	sun	-3	19/12
Excellent skiing with parts of the back bowls open.								
Creek 81	109	good	powder	good	sun	0	—	18/12
Excellent snow conditions. 50 of 51 trails open.								

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper, and art to artificial.

GERMANY	L	U
Berchtesgaden	30	90
Garmisch	20	175
Hindelang	35	60
Oberstdorf	35	150

● Information supplied by the German Automobile Club.

NORWAY	L	U
Geilo	50	50
Hemsedal	35	35
Hovden	40	50
Lillehammer	55	55
Oslo	40	30
Voss	30	45

● Information supplied by the Norwegian National Tourist Office.

SWITZERLAND	L	U
Adelboden	60	75
Andermatt	80	180
Arosa	60	80
Champéry	50	80
Crans-Montana	45	150
Davos	40	100
Engelberg	70	150
Grindelwald	60	75
Gstaad	45	110
Laax-Flims	60	120
Les Diablerets	50	90
Leysin	40	80
Mürren	70	120
Pontresina	70	130
Saas Fee	100	250
St Moritz	70	190
Villars	40	80
Wengen	40	70

● Information supplied by the Swiss National Tourist Office.

SCOTLAND

Cairngorm: Snow level, 2,150ft; vertical runs, 1,500ft. Runs: upper, some complete, icy and thin; middle, some skiing, but thin. Access roads open; chairlifts, one open; tows, five open. Too windy for top runs. **Glenshee:** Snow level, 2,000ft; vertical runs, 400ft. Runs: upper, none complete; lower, two runs complete, very narrow. Access roads open; chairlifts closed; tows, two open.

Forecast: Cairngorm, Glenshee and Lecht will have a cold start to the day, with some valley mist. Cloud will spread steadily from the west, bringing outbreaks of rain or sleet to most parts. Temperatures will tend to rise as the day goes on, with freezing levels rising to around 5,000ft. Winds starting light, but increasing steadily from the south or southwest, with gusts of around 50mph.

● Information supplied by the Scottish Meteorological Office.

NETBALL

Coach gets double assignment

THE ALL England Netball Association (AENA) has finalised its complement of officials to accompany the senior squads to New Zealand for the Milo international series in April, and to Australia for the world tournament in June (Louise Taylor writes).

An AENA officers' meeting at its Victoria headquarters in London confirmed appointments for both tours: Betty Galsworthy as coach; Joyce Wheeler as the team manager; and Patsy Rochester as physiotherpaist.

Neutral umpires are being used in New Zealand, but Sheila Redpath was chosen as an international umpire for the world tournament. Jean Bourne, the AENA's vice-president, will lead the English delegation to Australia, and along with Mary French, will be responsible for projecting England's viewpoint at an international conference.

Trials for players to go to New Zealand will take place in Birmingham on January 6 and February 10.

PEN ENGLISH COUNTIES LEAGUE

First division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Surrey	3	3	0	0	190	112	15
Middlesex	3	2	1	0	113	86	13
Birmingham	3	2	0	1	157	146	11
Cheshire	3	2	0	1	109	134	10
Bedfordshire	3	1	0	2	153	147	7
Essex Met	3	1	0	2	144	148	7
Kent	3	0	1	2	101	117	5
S Yorks	3	0	0	3	112	189	2

Second division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northants	3	3	0	0	147	97	15
Hants Nth	3	2	1	0	131	90	13
W Yorks	3	2	1	0	111	106	13
Herts	3	2	0	1	136	135	11
Humberside	3	1	0	2	140	139	7
Gloucs	3	1	0	2	105	127	7
E Essex	3	0	0	3	111	117	7
Warwicks	3	0	0	3	94	123	3

RUGBY LEAGUE

Holders to start defence in plum tie

By KEITH MACKLIN

ONLY one truly mouth-watering contest emerged from yesterday's draw for the opening rounds of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, and this involves the holders. **Wigan's** trip to **Castleford** has, inevitably, been chosen for television screening on February 9.

Otherwise, the preliminary and first round draws have managed to keep apart the big battalions. **Widnes, Leeds** and last season's beaten finalists, **Warrington**, have comfortable tasks, while **Bradford Northern** should coast past the amateurs, **Leigh East**, besides supplying much-needed funds for the junior club's coffers.

The amateurs have had mixed fortunes. The Cumbrians, **Hensingham**, have a home tie in the preliminary round with the lowly second division club, **Dewsbury**, which is an answer to prayer for the Hensingham secretary, Gordon Tunstall. He will attempt to have the tie switched to the neighbouring second division ground at Whitehaven in the hope that the amateurs can set up a money-spinning visit to Headingley to play **Leeds**.

The Yorkshire amateurs, the winners of the tie between **Catsyke** and **Dudley Hill**, travel to Salford to face the unbeaten second division leaders. **Sheffield Eagles**, who have hit an appalling slump, entertain the league leaders, **Hull**, with the appetising prospect of another home game against **Featherstone Rovers**.

There is a Cumbrian derby between **Carlisle** and **Workington Town**.

DRAW: Preliminary round (matches to be played on January 27): Leigh East v Bradford Northern; Sheffield Eagles v Hull; Hensingham v Dewsbury; Warrington v Huddersfield; Carlisle v Workington Town; Salford v Catsyke or Dudley Hill. First round (matches to be played on February 10): Bramley v Oldham; Leigh East or Bradford Northern v Leigh; Sheffield Eagles or Hull v Featherstone; Wakefield Trinity v Trafford Borough; Rochdale Hornets v Chorley; Salford or Catsyke or Dudley Hill v Batley; Castleford v Wigan; Carlisle or Workington v Hull KR; Halifax v Fulham; Swinton v St Helens; Barrow v Hunslet; Leeds v Hensingham or Dewsbury; Ryedale-York v Warrington or Huddersfield; Keighley v Runcorn; Nottingham City v Whitehaven; Doncaster v Widnes.

Leigh slip deeper into crisis

WHEN Alex Murphy, the Leigh coach, was asked his opinion on the prospect of three divisions, he asked with heavy irony whether the League could go ahead with 35, rather than 36, clubs. Murphy was referring to the fact that Leigh are not certain to survive until the projected three-division launch in 1992 (Keith Macklin writes).

Leigh are the worst hit of the clubs caught in the second division contract syndrome which recently caused all lower division clubs to attend an emergency meeting. They are staggering from fixture to fixture. The players, at one stage, refused to turn out at Carlisle last Sunday, but were persuaded to do so, and the number who will report for Sunday's game with Barrow is uncertain.

The crisis at Leigh is deep and, at first glance, so potentially disastrous that it is hard to see a way out. Leigh are £900,000 in debt and gates have tumbled badly.

The contracts system, which means that several players have five-figure contracts regardless of appearances and performances, is crippling the finances, and in a recent move, the directors asked such players to forgo payments if necessary until the end of the season. Some players have threatened strike action.

It would be a blow for rugby league if a club with the traditions of Leigh were to fold. If a rescue package is found, there will be relief all round, for Leigh could be the first of several defaulters at a time when, ironically, the profile of the game has never been higher.

Hand in command at Queen's

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Stepping out: Hand rushing to an easy victory over Grunfeld at Queen's yesterday

KAYE Hand, the 22-year-old top seed, was an easy winner of the British Women's Tennis Association Christmas tournament at Queen's Club, London, yesterday. The Wokingham player beat Amanda Grunfeld, the No. 2 seed from Manchester, 6-2, 6-2

The match lasted just under an hour and the net-rushing Hand, who has improved out of all recognition this year to reach 240th in the world rankings, earned a useful £300.

● Martina Navratilova, in an interview with the German magazine, *Sport*, confirmed that she plans to play doubles with Steffi Graf at the US Open next year. "I simply called her to ask how she was. I didn't want to ask her if she wanted to play with me because I was afraid that she would turn me down," Navratilova said. "But she accepted."

Drugs debate still on a high

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

IN A year which has yielded more British gold medals from the European championships than new athletics books, we are reminded by those authors who have been active that the drugs issue still dictates the pace of controversy in the sport.

Carl Lewis and David Hemery, Olympic gold medal winners, and Dr Robert Voy, who until last year was chief medical officer to the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), have each been drawn on the subject. There is hardly a book in evidence that has not.

Those who are finding distasteful the prospect of Ben Johnson's return to competition next month will warm to *Winning Without Drugs* (Collins Willow, £12.95). "This book is an act of defiance," Hemery and his co-authors, Guy Ogden and Alan Evans, say by way of introduction.

They advise on how a sportsman can maximise performance by use of "new knowledge, available from both orthodox and non-orthodox sources". Applying such knowlege, they "reappraise current practice in a number of areas of preparation".

Hydrotherapy and massage get a chapter, as does visualisation, favoured, for example, by Steve Backley. "It has been in recent years only that the practice has been identified and words used to describe it," Hemery writes.

He takes John Newcombe, the former Wimbledon tennis champion, as an example: "Newcombe made friends with the environment in which he had to compete. Once the stadium was empty, the day before he was due to play on centre court, he would go to the top of the stands. As he looked down, he extended his arms mentally to embrace the whole court, imagining it as a close friend. He wanted to create a sense that he would be comfortable and at home in the place in which he would have to compete the next day."

Drugs have long been a subject close to Lewis; two years ago they were running only three lanes outside him in the Olympic 100 metres final. He says they were in his team as well. In *Inside Track* (Pelham, £12.99), he describes his fellow United States sprinter, Florence Griffith-Joyner, as having "muscles popping everywhere". He accuses: "I know from some very reliable sources [that she took drugs]."

Referring to 1989, Lewis writes: "One positive drug test [Johnson's] changed everything. I call it the year of the steroid because public awareness of the problem increased so greatly."

Not that it pricked consciences as it should have, according to Voy. In his absorbing *Drugs, Sport and Politics* (Human Kinetics, £12.95), he describes how the USOC's *laissez-faire* approach to the fight against drugs precipitated his resignation. "I couldn't believe what I was seeing and hearing," Voy writes. "The USOC planned to raise 100 million more dollars, and not a penny of it was to go to sports medicine and science."

The two-year suspensions imposed on two United States world record-holders, Randy Barnes and Butch Reynolds, increase the topicality of Voy's book. He highlights, too, the potential dangers of erythropoietin which, while being virtually undetectable, enhances an athlete's oxygen-carrying capacity. Alleging widespread use of the drug among endurance athletes in the United States, Voy argues that unsupervised use can be dangerous. "I am sure it won't be long before a high-profile American athlete kills himself using erythropoietin," he writes.

Charlie Francis, Johnson's former coach, has his say on the subject of drugs in *Speed Trap* (Grafton, £14.99), which will be published on February 7. Will the theme for 1991 be any different from 1990?

SPORTS BOOKS OF THE YEAR

What are the best sports books of 1990? Specialist writers for The Times *give their verdicts*

FOOTBALL

Costly trip to the coast for Cowell

NON LEAGUE REVIEW
By WALTER GAMMIE

SAFFRON Walden were offered cold comfort by Cambridge United, their nearest Football League neighbours, when the draw for the fourth round of the FA Vase was made this week. Cambridge told them that they had never had to travel as far as Saffron Walden will have to on January 19 when they make the journey from Essex to Newquay on the north Cornwall coast.

"It's going to cost us £550," Kim Cowell, the Saffron Walden chairman, said. "I understand that they've got to pay £20 hotel bills for 20 people, apparently that's underwritten by the FA."

Cowell is in his first year as chairman of Saffron Walden, the Vauxhall League second division north side. He was lured into the game by Alan Russell, a life-long friend, who manages the club jointly with Phil Gilham.

Cowell believes he has brought organisation to the club which has helped generate increased income and stretch their net to attract players from London.

Tony Mercer has joined Saffron Walden from Dagenham as player-coach and together with other new arrivals Michael Leslie, from Dulwich Hamlet, and Lenny Clarke, from Woodford Town, has helped hoist the club away from the lower reaches of the table and already taken them further than ever in the Vase.

Borrowash Victoria, of the Central Midlands League, have to travel to Bridlington Town, last season's losing finalists. Bridlington, having won the North East Counties League last season, have moved up to the HFS Loans League first division.

But Borrowash, an amateur club, have taken heart from wins over Weekly Wynner League premier division sides, Maltby and Belper and Garforth, of the first division, whom they beat 6-2 away last Saturday.

Keith Tyler, the club's former chairman who moved to Filey, up the coast from Bridlington, has already acted as scout for Martin Rowe, the club's player-manager.

While travelling hopefully is most clubs' aim, Hythe Town, of the Beazer Homes League southern division, will settle for nothing less than lifting the Vase. Hythe, two seasons out of the Kent League, lost in the semi-finals to Yeading, the winners, last year. "We've entered it to win," Martin Giles, the secretary, said.

Under the inspiration of Tony Walton, the chairman, Hythe have spent freely to achieve their ambitions, this week signing Dave Arter, a forward and Jeff Ross, a winger, from Ashford Town for £25,000.

The next obstacle to Hythe's Wembley dream is Harefield United, of the Vauxhall League.

MOTOR RACING

Lotus secure Scalabroni for big push

ENRIQUE Scalabroni has been charged with moving the Lotus Formula One team towards the front of the grid (John Blunsden writes). The designer, aged 41, will assume overall responsibility for the technical direction of the team now run by the Peter Collins, Horst Schuebel and Peter Wright consortium.

Scalabroni, from Argentina, joined the Italian Dallara company in 1982, and spent five years with Williams before moving to Ferrari in 1989. There he was appointed head of chassis design and put in charge of the development of the 640 car designed by John Barnard.

At Lotus, he will be the technical architect of the team's hoped-for recovery from its recent bleak period.

FOOTBALL

League's goal glut is reflected by a rise in crowd figures

By Louise Taylor

FIFA might be less inclined in its desire to widenen the goalposts if world football's governing body took notice of the improved goalscoring ratio in the English game. There has been a six per cent increase in the number of goals in first division fixtures this season. So far, teams in the top flight have claimed 459 goals — an average of 2.75 per match — with Liverpool claiming the most, courtesy of 34 goals in 16 games.

The pattern is repeated lower down the League. Goalscoring in the second division has risen by 2.5 per cent, thanks largely to Oldham Athletic's 42 goals in 20 fixtures, and Hull City's concession of 51 in 21 games, which earns them the dubious distinction of possessing the League's worst defence.

In the third, the figure is 2.7 per cent. In the fourth, which boasts the League's leading scorer in Stuart Rimmer, of Walsall, who has 18 goals to his name, it is 0.8 per cent.

Only last Saturday, there were ten goals at Derby County, where Chelsea won 6-4. Two weeks previously, Leicester City beat Newcastle United 5-4. Marco Gabbiadini, the Sunderland and England B international forward, said yesterday: "From my experience at Sunderland, and talking to players at other clubs, I think the attitude of coaches and managers is geared towards playing attractive attacking football this season.

"English football has probably moved further away from the patient build-ups you see on the Continent, and the modification in the offside law has helped. There are a lot of good forwards about at the moment, but I do not think it is a case of forwards improving and defenders and goalkeepers getting worse, as much as about attitude in both training and matches.

"Three points for a win has been in for a few seasons now so I do not think in can be directly down to that either. I would like to see the offside law further modified — that would bring a lot more goals — but I am too much of a traditionalist to want bigger goals."

Whatever the reason, attendances have increased for the fifth consecutive season and supporters have seen a total of 2,268 League goals since August. So confident is the League that, despite the present economic recession, it is predicting its highest seasonal attendance aggregate since 1980.

Overall gates are up by 3.7 per cent. A total of 8,435,742 supporters, averaging 10,043 a game, have attended League matches this season. The average 12 months ago was 9,688. The first division has enjoyed the highest increase — up 13 per cent to an average of 23,500 — and only the fourth division has not experienced a significant rise.

A League spokesman said yesterday: "There are more promotion places on offer than ever before, and with four automatically promoted from the fourth division, with another four clubs featuring in the play-offs, there will be plenty of incentives on offer right to the end of the season."

Tottenham Hotspur, whose team includes Paul Gascoigne and Gary Lineker, have enjoyed an average improvement in attendances of 6,000 per match, while gates at newly pomoted Sunderland are up 35 per cent. Sheffield United are rooted to the bottom of the first division, and have failed to win in the League, but crowds at Bramall Lane have increased by 27 per cent, while, compared to last season, Crystal Palace are attracting an extra 3,000 supporters a game.

The best supported club is Manchester United, whose average home gate is 43,924. United also attracted the season's largest League crowd, 46,766 against Nottingham Forest in September.

Chelsea at home in area quarter-finals

CHELSEA, the holders, have been drawn at home to their first division rivals, Luton, in the third round of the Zenith Data Systems Cup — the area quarter-finals. There will four other all-first division ties, including the battle of the strugglers, Everton and Sunderland, at Goodison Park. Leeds have an Elland Road date with Derby.

Sheffield United, already engulfed in a fight against relegation during their first season back in the top flight, are rewarded for their shock 7-2 thrashing of Oldham with a home tie against Manchester City.

Luton's trip to Stamford Bridge looks to be the highlight of the draw, with matches set to take place in the week beginning January 21. The two sides meet in a first division game at Kenilworth Road on Boxing Day.

DRAW: Quarter-finals: Northern section: Sheffield United v Manchester City; Leeds United v Derby County; Barnsley v Nottingham Forest; Everton v Sunderland. Southern Section: Ipswich Town v Oxford United; Brighton v Crystal Palace; Chelsea v Luton; Norwich v Southampton. (Matches to be played in the week beginning January 21).

● Tranmere, the Leyland Daf holders, have been given a home draw in the second round, but must wait to find out their opponents. They will meet the runners-up from the undecided group including Rotherham, Halifax and Scarborough.

In the Southern section Southend, the third division leaders, have been drawn at home to Maidstone.

DRAW: Northern section: Burnley or Stockport v Crewe, Burnley or Stockport; York v Bury; Rotherham, Halifax or Scarborough v Blackpool; Preston v Darlington; Bradford v Hartlepool; Wigan v Rochdale; Tranmere v Rotherham or Halifax or Scarborough; Doncaster v Scunthorpe. Southern section: Cambridge v Walsall; Fulham or Brentford v Wrexham; Mansfield or Stoke v Fulham; Brentford or Leyton Orient, Swansea or Shrewsbury or Torquay v Mansfield or Stoke or Northampton, Birmingham v Swansea or Shrewsbury or Torquay; Exeter v Aldershot; Southend v Maidstone; Gillingham v Hereford. (Matches to be played in the week beginning January 7).

Mental preparation often the springboard to excellence

Perfect poise: Morgan launches into another practice dive as he prepares for the world swimming championships in Perth next month

Soaring to glory from loftiest platform

By Craig Lord

THE human brain requires a millisecond to activate a response to signals received by the five senses. From that viewpoint, one-and-a-half seconds is a long time.

This is just as well if you happen to be a tower diver. For that is the length of time it takes to spring from the highest platform of any summer Olympic sport, set a roll in motion that carries on for three full tumbles before stretching out to complete the ten metres drop by slicing the water at more than 30 miles per hour.

At the point of impact the diver is travelling faster than any 100-metre runner crossing the finish line, the difference being that one flows into air, the other is brought to a short sharp end by water — and it hurts.

You may be forgiven for wondering where then do divers find their enthusiasm for a sport whose moment of competitive glory often lasts less than two seconds and in which pain and the constant threat of injury are an integral part.

The two men who will represent Britain in the diving at the sixth world swimming championships at Perth, Australia, from January 3 to 13, may have the answers. Robert Morgan and Jeff Arbon are both coached at Crystal Palace by Mike Edge at Britain's most successful diving club, London's Highgate, which claimed five out of six titles at the national championships six weeks ago.

Of the club's two senior ambassadors, Morgan, from Cardiff, is favourite to win a medal at Perth after a year which started with a gold medal for the ten-metre board at the Commonwealth Games in January and ended two weeks ago with a gold medal in the three-metre board at the European Cup, a nine-place improvement on last year and Britain's first win at the event for nine years.

The physical attributes needed by a gymnast are similar to those required by a diver, as shown by Ni Xiong, aged 16, of China, who is favourite for gold at the ten-metre board at Perth and whose small frame carries an ideal power-to-weight ratio. But mental preparation is often the key to excellence.

"When you're on the board during competition, you are totally alone," Morgan said. "I like that, it gives me a buzz. All is quiet for the dive and automatic pilot takes over. Only in the split second when you take off the board do you start to respond to feeling, correcting as you go."

While giant bubbles help cushion the fall in training, but not in competition, strain to hands, wrists and shoulders is constant. Apart from twice hitting his head on the board, Morgan has sustained many injuries through training, which takes up to six hours a day. Yet, he looks on the bright side.

"That's just part of diving," he said. "It's the same for all those who will be at Perth, so we all start equal. I've had a great year and my aim is the final 12. Then, anything goes, including medals. Diving is a bit like golf, things go really well or really badly. One little slip can cost everything. Concentration and relaxation make all the difference."

For that, Morgan will turn to Arbon for help, for like many sportsmen, they turn to another sport for pleasure. They find playing badminton or squash helps them relax.

Arbon, a Londoner, who was sixth at the one-metre board at the European Cup, puts "mind preparation" at the top of his list of competition priorities. He believes that the warm, sunny climate of Western Australia will boost his spirits. "Trying to concentrate in cold water in grey England is very hard," he said.

"The better you feel, the sharper your mind. There's no scope for memory in diving. Pure, fast reaction counts a lot, that's the thrill."

IN BRIEF

Coaching ban goes

SPORTS coaches could be going to South Africa next year with the full approval of the anti-apartheid movement, Sam Ramsamy, one of the movement's leaders, said yesterday.

Ramsamy, executive chairman of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (Sanroc), said the present climate of reforms warranted sending coaches to improve the administrative and playing skills of black athletes.

TENNIS: Bjorn Borg, hoping to make a comeback at 34, has been offered a wild card for next year's Stuttgart tournament. He has also been invited to play in Rome, Monte Carlo and Wellington, New Zealand.

SWIMMING: German swimmers will be banned from the world championships next month unless they sign sworn statements that they are drug-free, their federation said in Munich.

BOXING: Michael Watson will defend his Commonwealth middleweight championship against Craig Trotter, of Australia, in London on January 23.

● Rolando Pascua, of the Philippines, knocked out the Mexican title-holder, Humberto Gonzalez, in the sixth round to win the World Boxing Council light-flyweight championship in Los Angeles on Wednesday.

RUGBY UNION: The Provincial Insurance Cup quarter-final draw will be made on BBC2's *Rugby Special* on Sunday, January 6 by Captain Michael Pearey, president of the Rugby Football Union.

SKIING

Tomba is out to make giant strides after home setback

KRANJSKA GORA, Yugoslavia (Reuter) — Despite defeat on his home ground this week, Alberto Tomba, of Italy, eyes a double win in the World Cup alpine giant slalom and slalom events today and tomorrow. The double Olympic champion, the only competitor to have two victories this season, will try to bounce back after missing a gate and retiring from a slalom in Madonna di Campiglio on Tuesday.

Tomba, meticulously prepared this year, showed brilliant form in two previous slaloms, finishing third in Mount Hutt in August and winning in Sestriere ten days ago.

He won with ease the difficult giant slalom in Alta Badia last Sunday, but the mistake in Madonna means he is lying only second in the overall World Cup standings, four points behind Franz Heinzer, of Switzerland, who has 76 points and races only in downhills and super-giant slaloms.

Tomba, the winner of a slalom here in 1987, will face the Norwegian, Ole-Christian Furuseth, third in the standings with 63 points and the winner in Madonna.

Furuseth, runner-up in the overall World Cup last season, was the fastest first-leg skier in both the Sestriere and Madonna slaloms. He had to give way to Tomba's superb second run in the first of the two, but won in Madonna.

Furuseth leads the slalom standings with 48 points, eight more than Tomba and 14 ahead of the surprising winner of the season's first slalom, Peter Roth, of Germany.

Tomba is trailing a Scandinavian in the giant slalom standings as well. But with Furuseth off form in the discipline so far, it is the Swede, Fredrik Nyberg, who will defend his lead today.

● MORZINE, France: Katja Seizinger, aged 18, of Germany, was the surprise leader in practice here yesterday for the women's World Cup downhill today (AFP reports).

She swept down the 2,680-metre run in 1min 41.25sec to beat the Soviet, Svetlana Gladishiva, by 0.59sec. Chantal Bournissen, of Switzerland, the fastest on Wednesday, was one hundredth of a second slower than the Soviet.

The World Cup leader, Petra Kronberger, of Austria, posted the seventeenth time but said she was confident as the course suited her.

● Martin Bell, the Britain No. 1, recovering from a knee operation in the autumn, produced an outstanding performance to take third place in a downhill race in Austria in which many of the official Austrian and Italian teams also took part. This was his second race in two days: on Wednesday, he had been placed seventh.

RESULT: Altenmarkt (Austria) FIS Downhill: 1, F Strobel (Austria), 1min 33.01sec; 2, P Vitalini (It) 1:36.80; 3, M Bell (GB), 1:33.01. Also: 20, G Bell (GB), 1:35.62

Oxford men to the fore

OXFORD dominated the men's giant slalom in the University Ski Race on the La Raie course at Val d'Isère, France, yesterday (a Special Correspondent writes). In cold and icy conditions, Oxford had the first five men home. Cambridge provided the first two in the women's giant slalom.

The slalom takes place today. The combined overall scores are then calculated to determine the winner.

RESULTS: Giant slalom: Men: 1, J Brzaski (Dartmouth, US, and Brasenose, Oxford), 53.74sec; 2, A Dechet (Princeton, US, and Jesus, Oxford), 54.00; 3, J Grierson (Eton and Balliol, Oxford), 54.72; 4, R Sanders (Winchester and Merton, Oxford), 55.12; 5, J Franklin-Adams (Radley and New College, Oxford), 55.21; 6, W McKimm (Lasgar College, Cassia and Clare, Cambridge) 55.31. Women: 1, A Lees-Jones (Wycombe Abbey and Pembroke, Cambridge), 55.77; 2, L Ormond (Bryanston and New Hall, Cambridge), 57.67; 3, F Graham (Keio, Japan and Oriel, Oxford), 58.35; 4, S Kearley (School of Geneva and Selwyn, Cambridge), 60.78; 5, A Blackburne (Aiglon College, Switzerland and Corpus Christi, Cambridge), 61.04; 6, L von Moyland (Tudor Hall and St Hilda's, Oxford), 62.88.

BOWLS

Nicholas matures with age

By David Rhys Jones

LILIAN Nicholas, who has already won every Welsh championship, could be on her way to a remarkable record after qualifying at Torfaen yesterday for the final of the South Wales Electricity Welsh women's indoor triples championship.

At 83, she would surely become the oldest winner of a national title — although she is only three years older than Jack Drummond-Henderson, of Cheltenham, who helped Tony Allcock to the English Outdoor triples title in August.

After skipping her Merthyr Tydfil triple to victory over the holders, Cardiff, Nicholas inspired her club-mates, Dot Cooper and Pat Czernecki, to an exciting 15-11 win over June Mills's Rhondda triple.

Merthyr must face Torfaen in the final at Cardiff next month, because one of the home club's triples, skipped by Joan Ricketts, beat another, skipped by Joy Watts, in the other semi-final.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: Merthyr Tydfil (L Nicholas) bt Cardiff (M Pomeroy), 19-14; Rhondda (J Mills) bt Merthyr Tydfil (R Jones), 14-12; Torfaen (J Ricketts) bt Taff Ely (M Dunning), 22-10; Torfaen (J Watts) bt Vale of Glamorgan (J Ackland), 21-10. Semi-finals: Nicholas bt Mills, 15-11; Ricketts bt Watts, 10-16.

● David Bryant, the England international, will be one of three former world indoor champions challenging for the Mackeson Fylde Classic at Blackpool on December 29 to 30.

Well represented

Durham and Nottingham each have three players in the Great Britain under-19 ice hockey squad to play a Dutch youth team at Milton Keynes on December 29 and at Nottingham on December 30.

YACHTING

The first legal bet goes on Rothmans

From Bob Ross in Sydney

LEGAL betting opened yesterday for the first time on Australia's 46-year-old ocean classic, the Sydney-to-Hobart race.

It being in the Australian nature to bet on two flies climbing a wall, wagers have always been laid somewhere on the Sydney-to-Hobart; around December, the cab drivers and experts on horse racing in the pubs suddenly become fluent on yacht racing.

The New South Wales Totalizator Agency Board, recognising a demand, has put the Hobart race into its betting system and is promoting it through its 1,261 outlets. For a minimum outlay of Aus $1, punters can pick a trifecta of the first three boats to finish.

The New South Wales minister for sport, recreation and racing, Bob Rowland-Smith, in placing the first bet yesterday, said he expected the race to generate a six-figure turnover and named the British maxi, Rothmans, skippered by Lawrie Smith, as his first choice.

Rothmans has shown in the preliminary races to the Hobart, in the Asia Pacific championship, that she has the all-round speed not only to be first into Hobart but to have a good chance of winning on corrected time as well if the weather favours the bigger yachts.

Only a breakdown could rob her of line honours victory and, as Smith says: "Well, she has already sailed around the world [in the Whitbread race]".

French challenge ends

THE French challenger, OTIP, was disqualified from the third race of the Little America's Cup elimination series for using a rig not designed and built in the country of origin (Bob Ross writes). She is almost certain to withdraw from the series.

The French yacht and Freedom's Wing, the challenger from the United States, were sailing off in 25ft International C-class catamarans, at McCrae YC on Port Phillip Bay, near Sydney, for the right to meet Edge III, the Australian defender, on the same waters in January.

The French crew, skippered by Eric Bruneel, capsized in the second race and broke their asymmetrical wing rig. They fitted a conventional mast and sail for the third race yesterday.

Freedom's Wing, after finishing the 20 nautical-mile course 1hr 2min ahead of OTIP, lodged a protest, alleging the French had infringed the provision of the deed of gift which says that the challenger must be designed and built in the country of the challenging club. The race committee lodged a similar protest.

SQUASH RACKETS

Draw holds promise for Keith

By Colin McQuillan

COLIN Keith, the young Scottish champion who has dominated league play in England this season, beating four of the world's finest players in as many weeks, had the best of yesterday's draw for the British national championships to be held in Newcastle next month.

Keith, aged 22, the European Champion of Champions, will need to overcome the experienced Danny Meddings and Paul Carter, the 1988 British champion, to reach a projected semi-final against Del Harris, who is defending his title. Harris faces Bryan Beeson, the England captain, and Simon Parke, the world junior champion, in the tournament sponsored by the charity Fight For Sight.

Peter Marshall, the double-fisted world under-23 champion, who is the No. 1 seed, could face the considerable challenge of the former champion, Gawain Briars, the 6ft 4in master-technician, who is aged 32 and recovering from back problems, in the third round.

Briars will need a fair wind to reach Marshall, by way of Mark Hornby and Jamie Hickox, but with the longest reach in the game, he may hold some threat

The early interest in the women's championship could rest in the third-round clash between Lisa Opie, the No. 1 seed, and Sue Wright, the youngster who held match points against her in the last British Open. Another match between junior and senior is in prospect in the probable second-round meeting between Alison Cumings and Cassandra Jackman, the European junior champion.

SEEDINGS: Men: P Marshall; 2, D Harris; 3, C Keith; 4, A Davies; 5, P Gregory; 6, S Parke; 7, C Walker; 8, P Carter. Women: 1, L Opie; 2, M Le Moignan; 3, S Horner; 4, L Soutter; 5, F Geaves; 6, S Wright; 7, R Best; 8, A Cumings.

STUDENT SPORT

Britons win fair reward despite lack of medals

The Great Britain team returned from the World Student judo championships in Belgium without medals but with the fair play award (Mike Lamb writes). Richard Barraclough, the team manager, described the squad as "the best team assembled since 1968".

Boda Gallon, from Liverpool Polytechnic, opened the championship with a win over the Brazilian heavyweight, Alfredo, and two more wins took him through to contest the bronze medal. He lost this narrowly to the East German champion.

James Charles, the Cardiff Institute bantamweight (under-60kg), set the championship alight with a decision over the Japanese No. 1, Saito, who was favoured to win the category.

With just the minimum statutory one-fight break after his battle with Saito, Charles narrowly lost his next contest to the eventual winner.

In the team events, the women were unfortunate to draw Italy, whose team included two indrividual gold medal winners and lost 4-1, while the men

BRITISH TEAM: Men: Under-60kg: J Charles (Cardiff IHE); Under-65kg: C Ward (Crewe and Alsager Coll); Under-70kg: R Shattock (Loughborough Univ); Under-78kg: R Sylvester (Brunel Univ); Under-85kg: C Hurst (Leeds Poly); Under-95kg: A Gay (London Univ); Over-95kg: B Gallon (Liverpool Poly). Women: Under-56kg: A Applin (Birmingham Univ); Under-61kg: A Manson (Heriot Watt Univ); Under-66kg: R Felton (Coventry Poly); Under-72kg: T Holyer (Bath Univ); Over-72kg: K Butler (Leicester Poly).

● The Universities Athletic Union football squad began its representative season with a win and a draw at Lilleshall on Wednesday (Mark Herbert writes). The first team beat a Stoke City XI 5-1, with Gasser, of Essex, and Beales, of Liverpool, scoring twice each.

The seconds were held to 2-2 by a Latvian Select side, drawn from touring youth players. Williams, of Warwick, and Barnett, of Kings College, were the scorers. The two teams will form the UAU's Commercial Union representative squad.

● Liverpool, the holders of the Barclays British Polytechnics football championship, were knocked out in the eighth-finals they left.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CUP: Final pool: Kingston 87 (Duncan 35, Clark 16, Cunningham 16, Byrd 15), Split 89 (Rubico 28, Paraskevic 26, Nagle 16; after OT).

KORAC CUP: Third round: Group A: Real Madrid 88, Panathinaikos 65; Cessons Brains (Bel) 86, Caesar (It) 100. Group B: Dorna Valencia 85, Dynamo Volgograd 52; Hapoel Tel Aviv 85, Cibona Zagreb 78; Charlottenburg (Ger) 75, Joventus Cesena (It) 80. Group C: Iraklis Salonika 70, Jovental Badalona (Sp) 81; Malhouse (Fr) 98, Varese (Italy) 83. Group D: Spartak Moscow 100, Donostia Sebastian (Sp) 59; KK Zader (Yug) 106, Estudientes Madrid 85; Panionios Athens 97, Ostend 91.

RONCHETTI CUP: Group A: Orchies (Fr) 78, Moskow Kiskinev (USSR) 73; Gaziantep Cusin Milan 90, Zeljeznicar (Yug) 72. Group B: Trogylos Priolo (It) 76, Lokomotiv Sofia 80. Group C: Red Star Belgrade 63, Racing Club de Paris 81. Group D: Aix-en-Provence (Fr) 65, Como 93; Estel Vicenza (It) 84, CSKA Moscow 84.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): New York Knicks 104, Miami Heat 94; Cleveland Cavaliers 84, Los Angeles Lakers 74; Detroit Pistons 105, Chicago Bulls 84; Boston Celtics 115, Philadelphia 76ers 105; New Jersey Nets 118, Los Angeles Clippers 105; Washington Bullets 114, Indiana Pacers 112 (OT); San Antonio Spurs 144, Denver Nuggets 109; Phoenix Suns 112, Minnesota Timberwolves 98.

BOXING

PRESTON: Flyweights: David McNally (Liverpool) bt Neil Johnson (Middlesbrough), pts; Feather: Brian Roche (Radley) drew with Steve Robinson (Cardiff); British and Commonwealth Lightweight championship: Carl Crook (Chorley) bt Ian Honeywood (Swansea), ref 4th rnd; Welter: Carl Wright (Liverpool) bt Julian Eavis (Yeovil), pts; Feather: Paul Forrest (Middlesbrough) bt Miguel Matthews (Ystalfera), pts.

LOS ANGELES: WBC light-flyweight championship: Rolando Pascua (Phil) bt Humberto Gonzalez (Mex), 6th rnd.

RIMINI, Italy: European super-bantamweight [illegible]

BOWLS

COUNTY MATCHES: Oxfordshire 155, London and Southern Counties 98; Sussex 125, Eastbourne 114.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Brisbane: Tasmania 240-7 (G Cruse 88 not out) v Queensland. Perth: New South Wales 376-4 (M E Waugh 128 not out, S R Waugh 112 not out) v Western Australia.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB, London: Public schools championships: Foster Cup senior singles: Quarter-finals: M Windows (Clifton) bt C Danby (Harrow), 18-14, 15-4, 15-8; P Le Marchand (Tonbridge) bt T Schwager (Haileybury), 15-9, 15-10, 15-3; S Gulliebaud (Harrow) bt R Gunn (Haileybury), 15-9, 15-10, 15-11; A Smith-Bingham (Eton) bt T Seymour-Cookson (Wellington), 18-15, 15-5, 15-4. Rosey Cup: Quarter-finals: R Hunter (Radley) bt C Liverton (Cheltenham), 15-12, 15-12; M Dawson (Clifton) bt P Kemp (Tonbridge), 15-9, 15-10; A Scammell (Malvern) bt A Mordaunt (Eton) 7-15, 15-10, 15-11; J Baird (Tonbridge) w/o A De Cadenet (Harrow), scr. Ingledew-Webber Cup (under-16): Quarter-finals: H Foster (Harrow) bt M Spencer-Nairn (Eton), 15-12, 15-13; J Bringham (Winchester) bt J Hands (Tonbridge), 17-14, 15-6; G Rees (Clifton) bt C Endicott (Cheltenham), 15-6, 15-5; J Coutts (Radley) bt J Chaplin (Tonbridge), 15-7, 15-17, 15-9.

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Castleford 22, Warrington 18; Widnes 28, Hull Kingston Rovers 8.

BARLA LANCASHIRE CUP: Final (at Leigh RLFC): Leigh East 29, Thatto Heath 13.

BRITISH COAL YOUTH LEAGUE: Bradford 34, Hunslet 3.

RUGBY UNION

TOULOUSE, France: Centenary tournament: [illegible]

FOOTBALL

Late results on Wednesday

ZENITH DATA SYSTEMS CUP: Second round: Brighton 3, Charlton Athletic 1; Derby County 1, Coventry City 0; Luton Town 5, West Ham United 1; Manchester City 2, Middlesbrough 1; Norwich City 1, Millwall 1 (aet; Norwich win 6-5 on penalties); Wolverhampton Wanderers 1, Leeds United 2.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Group one: Spain 9, Albania 0 (in Seville).

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Germany 4, Switzerland 0 (in Stuttgart); Portugal 1, United States 0 (in Oporto).

HFS LOANS LEAGUE CUP: Third round: South Liverpool 5, Workington 3 (aet).

FONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Everton 2, Blackburn 1; Newcastle 2, Leeds 0; Nottingham Forest 0, Liverpool 1. Second division: Hull 3, York 2; Middlesbrough 1, Grimsby 1; Scunthorpe 1, Oldham 3; Stoke 1, Bolton 1.

GWENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION: Crystal Palace 4, Ipswich 1; Fulham 0, Arsenal 1; Reading 2, Millwall 1; Swindon 0, Chelsea 4.

VAUXHALL LEAGUE: AC Delco Cup: Third round: Molesey 1, Grays 0.

LOCTITE YOUTH CUP: First round: Basingstoke 3, Bracknell 1; Carshalton 5, Wembley 0; Horsham 1, Enfield 9; Maidenhead United 5, Leatherhead 0.

HERTFORDSHIRE CHARITY CUP: Semi-final: Royston 1, Hitchin 3.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Toronto Maple Leafs 4, New York Rangers 1; Montreal Canadiens 1, Quebec Nordiques 1 (OT); Chicago Black Hawks 3, Washington Capitals 2.

NORDIC SKIING

LES SAISIES, France: World Cup: Men: 4 x 10km relay: 1, Sweden A, 1hr 46min 19.9sec; 2, Italy, 1:47:05.2; 3, Sweden B, 1:47:05.4. Women: 10km: 1, Y Walbe (USSR), 28:35.7; 2, S Belmondo (It), 29:05.2; 3, L Egorova (USSR), 29:25.4. World Cup: 1, [illegible]

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Monarchs open their campaign in Frankfurt

By Richard Wetherell

WITH the announcement of the playing schedule yesterday, the World League of American Football (WLAF) took a giant step away from the drawing-board and on to the playing field. The 50-match schedule starts on Saturday, March 23, with the London Monarchs playing away to their European division rival, Frankfurt Galaxy.

The Monarchs' first home game, at Wembley Stadium, is on Sunday, March 31, kick-off 7pm, against the New York Knights.

Each of the ten teams in the WLAF play ten games, five home and five away. They face each other once and play one team twice. The Monarchs are paired with the Knights who have former Cincinnati Bengals linebacker, and now a councillor in Cincinnati, Reggie Williams, newly installed as their general manager. They face the Knights on Saturday, May 11, at Giants Stadium, home of the New York Giants of the NFL.

a three-match, 12-day away trip that consists of games against San Antonio on May 6 and Sacramento Surge on May 18.

The other home games for the Monarchs are on April 7 against Orlando Thunder, kick-off 8pm, April 20, versus Montreal (whose name is expected to be announced within the next three days) at 7pm, and April 28 at 6pm against Raleigh-Durham.

After their trip to America the Monarchs' final regular season game is against their other European division rivals, Barcelona Dragons, on May 27. If they are top of the Europe division, or have the best record of the second-placed teams, they will qualify for the semi-finals on June 1 and 2. The winners of those games go forward to the World Bowl on June 9.

Tickets for the home games will be on sale from January 7 from the Wembley Box Office and are priced £8, £12, £15 and £20. There are reductions for children, senior citizens and

SPORT

The fall of Adams may halt the rise of Arsenal

By Stuart Jones, football correspondent

THE international career of Tony Adams, once considered a future captain of England, is under obvious threat. Although the Football Association has yet officially to decide whether the Arsenal defender should be further disciplined after he has been released from prison, his position in Graham Taylor's squad will inevitably be weakened.

Arsenal, who have been inundated with telephone calls since the four-month sentence was passed on Wednesday, have offered him public support. The FA, whose disciplinary code is strict, is unlikely to allow Taylor to be so forgiving. Besides, time is against Adams.

Unless he is picked for the summer tour of Australia and the Far East, it will be next September before he can rejoin the national squad. If Taylor has not finished reshaping the team he inherited from Bobby Robson by then, he will be well on the way.

Adams's prospects were bright at the beginning of 1987, when he made his first appearance in the 4-2 victory in Spain. While Terry Butcher was recovering from a broken leg, his selection over the next two years was almost automatic. He missed only three of 20 matches.

Robson then considered Adams certain of a permanent place in the England side for a decade and predicted that he would eventually be the captain. But he was replaced by Des Walker after the trip to Saudi Arabia, where he scored, at the end of 1988, and was not recalled until last month's European championship qualifying tie in Dublin.

He was brought back for the occasion to reinforce England's aerial power against the Irish, and, even if he had been available, he was unlikely to be retained. His qualities, though admirably suited to the needs of his club, are not necessarily ideal for his country.

Adams may be a dominant figure within the rugged, physically demanding domestic game. When he has to cope with more mobile and subtle opponents, he is not so comfortably assured. Hence, Mark Wright, a more complete player, was preferred ahead of him in the World Cup squad last summer.

Walker, Wright and Paul Parker, England's established central defenders, are already being challenged by two other experienced campaigners. Taylor has confirmed that Bryan Robson will no longer be considered in midfield but he could, when fully fit, return at the back, where he represented the B team in Algeria.

Gary Mabbutt came back into contention during the same goalless draw ten days ago. His contribution convinced Taylor that he would be an able deputy if the need arose. Gary Pallister, another contender, also played in Algiers. The competition for places is fierce and Adams is sure to lose further ground.

So, probably, will Arsenal. The only unbeaten side in the first division, their pursuit of Liverpool has been based on a defence which has yielded only nine goals in 17 League fixtures. Adams, the captain, is the principal pillar. Without him, they are sure to be more vulnerable.

They have a surfeit of capable central defenders. Steve Bould, like Adams, has appeared in every game so far and George Graham has recently used David O'Leary as well. Neither Andy Linighan, signed from Norwich City at the beginning of the season, nor Colin Pates has yet been chosen.

None of them, however, is as forceful a player or as inspired a leader as Adams. Arsenal, having been deducted two points by the FA for the brawl at Old Trafford, can be excused for believing that they are destined not to regain the title they won two seasons ago.

Turner on the list

Warrington rugby league club has placed on the transfer-listthe Great Britain under-21 halfback, Robert Turner, at his own request. Turner, who has lost his place at stand-off to the Australian, Chris O'Sullivan, had a transfer request rejected two months ago.

Officials banned from Cup duty

THE FOOTBALL Association yesterday suspended a referee and a linesman from officiating in the FA Cup for the remainder of this season (Louise Taylor writes).

Graham Pooley, a League referee, and Mangel Singh, a League linesman, received their bans after being found to have misinterpreted the application of rules relating to the professional foul during matches in November.

Pooley, from Bishop's Stortford in Hertfordshire, sent off Ronnie Robinson, of Rotherham, for a deliberate hand ball in the third division match against Bournemouth on November 10.

But, as both the League and FA were quick to point out, the recent directive from Fifa asking that players be shown the red card for professional fouls does not include hand ball in its definition of serious foul play. The League withdrew Pooley from a first division match he was due to officiate in the following week.

Singh, a Birmingham-based linesman, sent off Kevin Gilliard, of Luton Town, for a deliberate hand ball while refereeing an Ovenden Papers Combination match against Millwall on November 10.

Yesterday, a three-man FA committee, headed by Graham Kelly, its chief executive, commuted the sending-offs of Gilliard and Robinson to cautions, meaning the pair will not serve suspensions.

A League spokesman said: "Mr Pooley was withdrawn for one game, and as far as we are concerned that is the end of the matter."

FA ban for Exeter chairman

By Louise Taylor

IVOR Doble, the chairman of Exeter City, was yesterday suspended by the Football Association from any involvement in football for 12 months. It found Doble, along with three other officials at the third division club, guilty of misconduct regarding financial claims submitted to the Football Grounds Improvement Trust (FGIT) and the Football Trust.

The four were ordered to pay a total of £27,000 by a three-man disciplinary commission. An FA spokesman said: "This case was not comparable to that of Swindon Town [who were demoted from the first division for financial irregularities last summer]."

Doble denied the charges, arguing that the club had drawn FGIT's attention to the fact that it had received too much cash for work at its St James' Park ground, and that he personally repaid £27,000.

The FA, however, fined him £5,000 with a further £2,000 costs. Murray Couch, the financial director, was suspended for six months and fined £4,500, Michael Holladay, the commerical director, was fined £3,000, Archie Gooch, a former director, was fined £3,000, while the club must pay back £9,500.

Doble consulted lawyers last night as he decided whether to appeal. "I am absolutely astonished," he said. "There is no way we deserve this."

Terry Cooper, the Exeter manager, was understood to be considering his position.

Driving England into the dustbin

Century of the highest calibre

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
Ballarat

BETTING on the second Test match, which begins on Boxing Day, officially opened in Australia yesterday and, when play began in the four-day fixture at the Eastern Oval here, England's odds of 5-1 seemed attractively insulting. By the close, however, no sensible person could have been rushing to back them.

It was not the fact that the Victoria state side had amassed 336 for four, nor even that Dean Jones had taken his second audacious century off the touring side in five days. This, after all, occurred on the pitch which W. G. Grace reckoned to be the best in Australia.

No, what dampened any temptation to invade the local equivalent of Ladbrokes with a thick wad of dollars was the continuing ordinariness of England's cricket and the relentless setbacks afflicting them. The pressing question this weekend is not who they will select for the second Test but whether they can find 11 men who are neither injured nor inadequate.

Consigned to the field on a bleak and chilly day, England at least had an opportunity to define their best Test attack, the remaining issue apparently being to choose two from Malcolm, Small and Bicknell in support of the prospective debutant, Tufnell, and the comparative old sweat, Fraser. Yesterday's events, however, put this process into reverse.

Malcolm and Bicknell bowled too short and wide to occasion good players any difficulty on a pitch as true as this. Worse, Small could get through only 11 undemanding overs before, at tea, complaining of a reaction from his damaged thigh muscle.

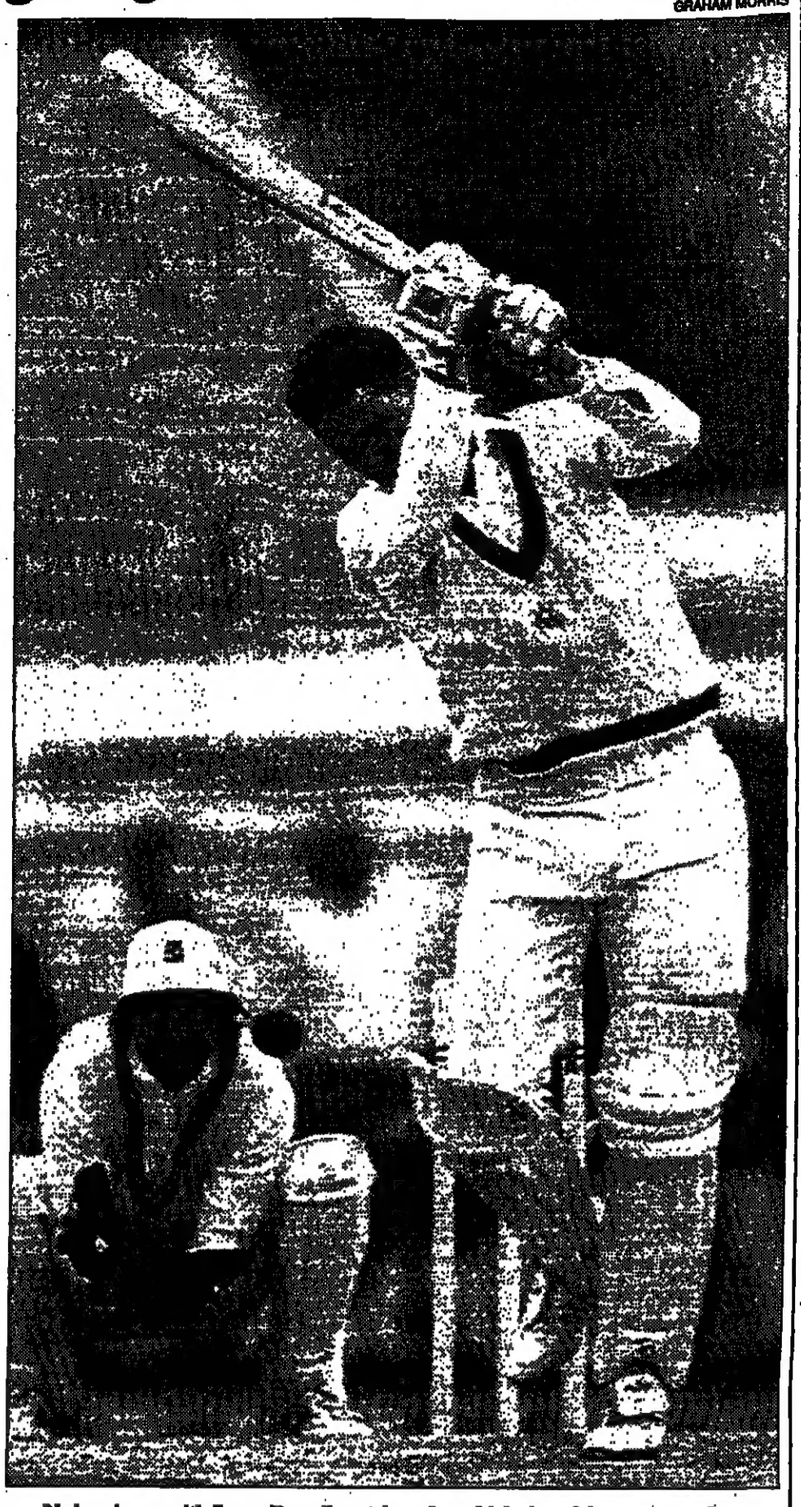
Small stayed on the field for the remainder of the day but did not bowl again and is obviously struggling to be fit for the Test. DeFreitas is an ever more likely candidate to play a Test within a fortnight of arriving on the tour and, for all the transparent disaffection with Lewis's mystifying spate of ailments, he may yet be picked for the lack of anybody else suitable.

Just to compound the problems, a freakish accident at practice has left John Morris with his left hand badly bruised and heavily bandaged, a fractured bone not ruled out after hospital x-rays.

Morris was acting as wicketkeeper during the team's fielding routine and, as is the modern custom, wearing a baseball glove to take the players' throws. He was reaching to his left to collect a wayward one just as Micky Stewart, the team manager, hit another ball skyward. From point-blank range, the ball hit Morris on the back of his hand, a blow from which he is not expected to recover for a week.

As Morris was logically the reserve batsman for Melbourne, this creates new potential for chaos and last night the harassed management was attempting to find some club cricket for DeFreitas, Hugh Morris and Larkins this weekend in case any, or all, of them are needed on Boxing Day. "All in all, not a good day for England," Stewart said, with weary understatement.

GRAHAM MORRIS



No keeping up with Jones: Russell matches a knee-high view of the century-maker

Ballarat's citizens may not, consequently, be seeing the cheeriest group of English cricketers to visit their city but they have spared no effort to uphold the history and hospitality of this fixture. Eastern Oval is the oldest ground in Australia and an English touring team first played here in 1862. The present game, as with all modern-day matches between Victoria and England, is titled the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial and is especially fitting here as Menzies went to school within sight of the ground and yesterday was the ninetieth anniversary of his birth.

The weather did not initially pay homage. Overnight rain delayed the start for half an hour and left the outfield damp and slow, which was just as well for England, as their three seam bowlers competed for the worst line in the early stages and the short boundaries would have been in still greater danger on a dry day.

Bicknell received a warning for running on the pitch to go with his worries, but did lay claim to more moral successes than Malcolm or Small as the experienced left-hander, Watts, and his watchful partner, Warren Ayres, once of the Woodford Wells club in Essex, took careful stock through the shortened morning period.

By mid-afternoon, Gooch had evidently wearied of the four regular bowlers finding a wicket between them and turned to Atherton, who broke the stand in his second over as Watts missed a sweep. This, however, brought Jones striding to the middle, not a sight which the English relish.

Greeted euphorically by a fan club of several thousand schoolchildren, Jones let nobody down. Tufnell conceded three sixes to him, Bicknell and Malcolm one each. Twice he hit the ball out of the ground, once over the elaborate, turn-of-the-century pavilion. It was batting of the highest calibre from a man who believes England have little idea how to get him out; he may be right.

Even when Jones was out, after making 110 from 106 balls, it was Atherton who snared him, and when Lehmann was run out in the same over, attempting a third to deep mid-wicket, it still seemed that England might complete the day without a single success for a front-line bowler.

Tufnell, who had taken his punishment without compromising his natural aggression, deservedly put a stop to this curiosity by having Siddons caught behind, but Ayres remained unbeaten after six hours in which England's Test preparations had retreated not so much to the drawing board as to the dustbin.

VICTORIA: First Innings

G M Watts lbw b Atherton	65
W G Ayres not out	123
D M Jones c Malcolm b Atherton	110
D S Lehmann run out	3
J D Siddons c Russell b Tufnell	11
*S P O'Donnell not out	11
Extras (b 7, w 1, nb 5)	13
Total (4 wkts)	336

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-124, 2-301, 3-308, 4-319.

†D S Berry, M G Hughes, P R Reiffel, D W Fleming and P W Jackson to bat.

BOWLING: Malcolm 20-3-65-0; Small 11-1-33-0; Bicknell 15-3-61-0; Tufnell 29-5-92-1; Atherton 19-2-78-2.

ENGLAND XI: *G A Gooch, M A Atherton, A J Stewart, A J Lamb, D I Gower, R A Smith, †R C Russell, G C Small, M P Bicknell, P C R Tufnell, D E Malcolm.

Umpires: L King and D Hair.

Umpire's threat, page 34

● Ken Higgs, the former England fast bowler, is quitting Leicestershire cricket club after ten years as coach. Higgs, aged 53, who first joined the county in 1972, is leaving after the summer appointment of Bobby Simpson as team manager and the recent return of Jack Birkenshaw as coach.

"With the appointments of Bobby Simpson and Jack Birkenshaw, I've gone lower and lower down the ladder," Higgs said. "I felt there was nothing there for me now and that it was time to get out."

"I've been very happy at the club and I had to give this decision a lot of serious thought."

Martin on the crest of a ride

From Bob Ross
in Sydney

JOHN Martin, who has led the fleet almost all the way on the 7,000 nautical-mile Cape Town to Sydney leg of the BOC single-handed round the world race, picked up a fast ride on a following southerly "buster" front yesterday to consolidate a winning lead.

Martin's Allied Bank was expected to cross the finishing line in Sydney Harbour at 5.30am local time, twelve-and-a-half hours ahead of the second yacht, Groupe Sceta, sailed by Christophe Augin, of France.

Martin, aged 36, sailing the widest and probably most powerful 60-footer in the fleet, jumped into the lead, punching into the southeast headwinds as the fleet left Cape Town, where he had finished the first leg, from Newport, only 1hr 47min 15sec behind Augin. The first out of the high pressure system there, Martin took the lead 48 hours after the start.

"He almost got one whole weather system ahead of everybody and has led ever since," the race director, Mike Schrader, said. Martin's lead, of more than 300 miles, at times, was threatened by the two Frenchmen as he slowed up in a high pressure system to the south of Australia before entering Bass Strait. To circumnavigate the high, both Auguin and Gautier dipped to the south of Tasmania and for a while, two days ago, were making speeds of 9.7 knots and 7.3 knots respectively to Martin's 3.4 knots.

Martin picked up the fresh southerly air stream yesterday, however, and was able to run on a direct course for Sydney at speeds of up to 13 knots.

Coe group backed by CCPR

By John Goodbody

THE Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), which represents sport's national governing bodies, yesterday reaffirmed its support for London to stage the 2000 Olympic Games.

The executive committee, which comprises 22 elected sports representatives, specifically supported London Olympic 2000, one of the three consortiums in the capital bidding to stage the Games. It is expected that in the new year London Olympic 2000, whose chairman is Sebastian Coe, will combine with the two other groups to make a joint bid to the British Olympic Association (BOA).

The CCPR said that the "plans being assembled under the banner of London 2000 represented a genuine and realistic scheme which could secure the support of the BOA and attract a commitment from the IOC".

Peter Lawson, the CCPR secretary, has been instructed to convene the technical meetings with the summer Olympic sports to "fine-tune" the siting of facilities.

The decision will upset Manchester, which failed to gain the 1996 Games but plans to try again for 2000. However, CCPR support may handicap London. There are leading figures at the BOA who are irritated at the role the CCPR is playing in bidding for the Games.

An Olympian on the importance of winning

COMMENT

From David Miller in Paris

THE decision of the British Olympic Association (BOA) to confine in future its selection for the Olympic Games to those competitors with a chance of success, as opposed simply to those eligible to take part, has found an unexpected source of support. Le Comte de Beaumont, who will be 87 in January and is the oldest member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), believes the BOA to be correct. The BOA is modernising its attitudes in conjunction with seeking to host a future Games.

"I absolutely approve," he said, sitting at his desk in the banking chambers near to the Bourse where he has worked since he was 20. De Beaumont, from one of France's oldest aristocratic families, is the last surviving link with Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic movement, whom he met 60 years ago. De Coubertin had emphasised the importance of taking part.

"I was just a young fellow then," de Beaumont said. "He was a traditionalist, but not exactly what he may have seemed. He understood the world at his time, as it then was. But today? He always said that the best men must come to the Games. Mind you, he never said anything about the best women, yet the Games today without women would be as unreal as an army barracks."

De Beaumont considers the decision by the BOA to be sensible and necessary. "As I understand it, they want a team that will compete, and not be 50 yards behind," he said, although I do not think he had heard of Britain's grounded eagle of Calgary. "Today in life you have to make selections. You do it with horses for the great races, so why not with people? I am in wholehearted agreement."

In 1934, de Beaumont, a prominent gentleman jockey, was to have ridden Trocadero in the Grand National, won that year by Golden Miller. A week before he caught tonsilitis, and had to watch the race instead from Lord Derby's box. An inexperienced replacement rider had Trocadero last at the first fence, but the horse came through the field to finish fifth. "The only time I had a chance to compete in that great event," de Beaumont reflected disappointedly.

At the Munich Games in 1972, he was a candidate to succeed Avery Brundage, of the United States, as IOC president, but was surprisingly defeated by Michael Killanin, the Irish journalist who succeeded to the baronetcy given to his Irish Chief Justice grandfather by Queen Victoria. It was thought that de Beaumont's wealth would give him the edge — the IOC then paid no expenses, and Brundage claimed the job cost him £30,000 a year — but Lord Killanin broke important new ground as an unaffluent leader. The IOC today has almost unlimited money and is able to subsidise both competitors and officials.

De Beaumont, however, is worried about the encroachment of money. "Is it interfering too much?" he asked. "Wherever it goes, it upsets things. Money is needed to help sport, yet sport must not help money. Money is needed to build stadiums, to maintain fields, but when sport starts to make money for other people, this is not good. Money brings with it betting and then violence. When I was a young man, we were living in the so-called golden era. Now gold has taken us over, and two of the consequences of this are doping and violence. The Olympic movement must not lose its sense of direction."

He is aware of the danger at his age of being too traditional: "The world is changing so quickly, and like all old people I sometimes become afraid of the acceleration in change within the Olympic movement," he said. "I don't say you shouldn't change, but I believe you must stay close to the soul of sport. If the soul is not as pure as it used to be in my young days, when we played for fun, I'm not saying it's necessarily wrong. But we must be on our guard."

De Beaumont reflected on the Bible's teaching of the merchants' corrupting of the Temple, and he observed: "When you see many lizards running in the cracks in the wall, those lizards can eventually make the building collapse."

Despite the misgivings about long-term commercial threats to the Games, de Beaumont was optimistic that the work of Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president, was strengthening the movement. Here was a man, he said, giving not half a life but his whole energies exclusively to making the Olympic ideal stronger than it had ever been. "He is a diplomat, and a clever man," de Beaumont said.

And he expressed unbounded admiration for British initiative. "It is remarkable," he said, "that your National Olympic Committee finds the money for each Games without government assistance, and I take my hat off to them. As for the way Birmingham and then Manchester have successively bid for the Games, that is a fine show of ambition and enterprise. We do not have two provincial cities that could do the same. But Manchester have to find a race in which there are not so many runners. Paris? When they bid for 1992, I gave my vote [in 1986] to Barcelona. I thought it was important that we should test a smaller city."

A man all his life of an independent mind.